■ Lifestyle / G3
Filipino designer Monique Lhuillier wows Big Apple

■ Entertainment / A2-1
Upbeat Annette Gozon-Abrogar takes over as GMA Films president

■ World / A13
Prince Charles, Camilla Parker Bowles to wed

■ World / A10
North Korea admits for first time it has nuclear weapons

■ Business Friday / B2-1
Emily Abrera goes to best advertising fest as RP's 1st jury rep

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GMA declares Feb. 25 special nonworking holiday

FEB. 25, FRIDAY, will be a special nonworking holiday for the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the day a special national holiday to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

In Proclamation No. 785, the President

GMA DECLARES/ A8

GMA goes a-courting, ups Valentine's gift to ₱3,000

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

KULANG PA RIN YAN!

LIKE a rebuffed lover, President Macapagal-Arroyo is upping the ante by giving government employees a "Valentine bonus" of P3,000, or

GMA/ A21

Battalion commander killed in Sulu

AFP

A MORTAR attack fatally wounded Lt. Col Dennis Villanueva. He was rushed to the provincial hospital in Sulu where medical personnel, including this Muslim nurse, tried to save his life.

General also owns unit in luxury Makati condo

By Fe Zamora

ASIDE from a condo at Essensa at the Fort, retired Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot owns a unit at Paseo Parkview, one of the newest luxury residential highrises just a stone's throw away from Ayala Avenue, according to a House defense committee fact sheet on Ligot's alleged P65 million in unexplained wealth.

In fact, Ligot was reportedly at his Paseo condo unit when a female member of the committee staff tried to deliver an invitation for him to appear before a hearing on corruption in the military last Dec. 12, according to the committee report.

The report said a certain Mr. Retomo, a security officer of the building, and other guards at the door "readily recognized the general's name and received the invitation."

"They even allowed the committee staffer to proceed to Ligot's unit thinking that she was a personal friend. (But) the staffer declined due to the late hour," the report said.

The invitation was then placed in Ligot's pigeonhole. But Ligot appeared at the hearing only a month later, saying he had not been informed about it.

GENERAL/ A20

PDI ARCHIVES

MARTYRED metropolis: Manila, historians agree, was second only to Warsaw, Poland, in terms of devastation. It was the only Allied capital in the Pacific that was destroyed.

HOLOCAUST IN MANILA

The most vicious crime in RP history

(Editor's Note: One hundred thousand civilians, mostly Filipinos, perished in the 28-day Battle for Manila in February 1945. The Memorare-Manila 1945 Foundation founded by the survivors and descendants of the victims aims to keep the flame of remembrance burning brightly for the meaning of their dying.

On Feb. 12, the Memorare and the Friends of Intramuros will honor the martyrs with a Mass, wreath-laying and the endless retelling of their stories.)

By Benito J. Legarda Jr.

(First of a series)

FEBRUARY 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the most vicious crime in Philippine history, the sacking of Manila in February 1945 by Japanese military forces. No other single event in our history even remotely approximates the extent of material destruction, the number of casualties, the manner of dealing death, and the loss of cultural heritage.

THE MOST/ A8

Nur's rebels reject calls for ceasefire

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—An Army battalion commander and one of his men were killed while six other soldiers were wounded in a gun battle following fresh attacks mounted by followers of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari in Panamao town early yesterday.

The latest fatalities raised the military's toll in four days of fighting to at least 25 dead and more than 50 wounded. More clashes were expected as the leader of the renegades, Habier Malik, rejected calls by provincial officials for a ceasefire.

According to military reports, the rebels had suffered 45 dead since Monday, in some of the most intense fighting in the region in years.

Thousands of villagers have been displaced in sporadic skirmishes in at least six towns.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, chief of the Southern Command's Task Force Comet, said Malik's group fired mortar shells on a contingent from the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion in Barangay Siit, Panamao.

Eight soldiers were wounded in the shelling, but two of them—Lt. Col. Dennis Vil-

BATTALION/ A20

Militants assail 'secret' releases of Marcos loot

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora

MILITANT groups assailed yeaterday President Macapagal-Arroyo for keeping secret the fund releases and expenditures which, they said, clearly belied Malacañang's claim that the money was still intact.

Anak-pawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano

MILITANTS/ A20

2nd witness to murder fought back

PAGADIAN CITY—This one was able to fight back.

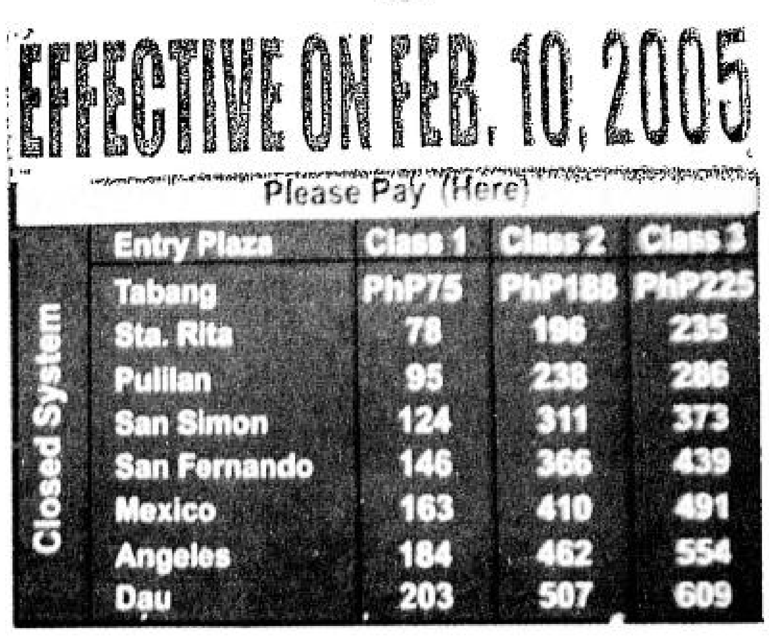
A vital witness to the 2002 murder of journalist Edgar Damalerio was able to foil an apparent attempt on his own life on Wednesday evening by shooting at a group of unidentified armed men loitering near his hideaway.

"They managed to escape," Edgar Ongue, 33, told the INQUIRER from an undisclosed location. He said he fired a revolver at his attackers before they could enter the house he was staying in.

Only a week earlier, Edgar

2ND WITNESS/ A21

Motorists grumble over 400% hike in NLEX toll fees



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San Fernando	146	366	439
Mexico	163	410	491
Angeles	184	462	554
Dau	203	507	609

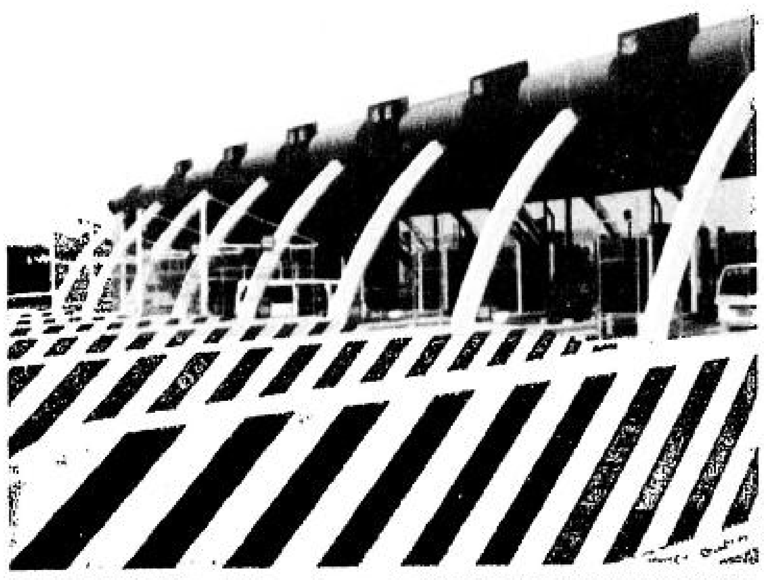
By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—On the first day of operation of the 82-km North Luzon Expressway, the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) declared short toll holidays to give itself leeway in dealing with long queues and motorists griping over higher fees.

MNTC began collecting the new fees representing an increase of some 400 percent at 1 a.m. yesterday, according to Marlene Ochoa, its vice president for public information.

For class "A" vehicles, the fee to Balintawak from Tabang is P75;

MOTORISTS/ A8



ROAD RAGE: Motorists traveling on the North Luzon Expressway are up in arms over the new toll fees about which they had not been informed.

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

ORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon will experience partly oudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers. While the eastern sections Visayas and Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rainowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times oudy skies.

MPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/11/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Senate OKs 'skin-and-bones' budget

EACEMAKERS

oreign Secretary Alberto Romulo welcomes at the Department of Foreign Affairs delegates of the member countries f the Organization of the Islamic Conference who are here to monitor the peace process between the government and e Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The mission is headed by Malaysian Ambassador Iskandar Sarudin (right). ERIK ARAZAS

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine Avendaño

AFTER two weeks of intense floor debates, the Senate last night passed on second and third reading the P907.3-billion national budget.

With a vote of 18 to 0, the Senate sent the General Appropriations Act of 2005 on its way to the bicameral conference committee which will convene next week.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the finance committee which shepherded the passage of the bill, described it as a "skin-and-bones" budget.

He said the budget had "little flexibility" because of the low allocations for capital expenditures and social services.

But increasing the budget was not an option because it would further worsen the deficit, which stands at P186 billion, said Villar.

The only solution would be for revenue officials to increase tax collections, he said.

Ombudsman solution

To plug the loopholes in revenue collections, the budget bill increased the appropriation for the Office of the Ombudsman from the proposed P140 million to P200 million.

Villar said the P60-billion additional funding for the Ombudsman's office would be used to hire graft investigators to monitor corruption in revenue-generating agencies like the bureaus of customs and immigration.

The P907.350-billion budget was P240 billion short of the version passed by the House late last year.

As for the Countrywide Development Fund, commonly known as the pork barrel, senators were allotted P120 million each, down by P80 billion, while each House member got P40 million, down from P70 million.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Panfilo Lacson gave up their pork barrel funds for this year.

Lacson's proposal to increase by P291 million the budget of the Bureau of Fire Protection to pay for the retirement differential benefits of retirees there, which they have not been receiving since 1991, was approved.

Villar, who chairs the Senate finance committee, told reporters that cuts were made from the budgets of departments and agencies but most of these, totaling P800 million, were realigned to other departments.

A majority was the 20-percent across-the-board reduction in the funds for intelligence travel, confidential and training expenses of government agencies and departments.

Exempted from the 20-percent cut in these expenses were constitutional bodies that included the Office of the President, the tourism department and state universities and colleges (SUCs).

"These constitutional bodies were not touched out of basic courtesy," Villar said.

He explained that the DOT was exempted from the 20-percent cut because it needed money to spend for promoting the country while senators saw no need to reduce the already meager budgets of the SUCs.

Villar said the senators had come up with provisions that would ensure that the expenditures of government agencies are watched.

For instance, he said that no additional budget would be released to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao if previous money releases had not been completely liquidated.

Oppositionists vote yes

"So our focus really here in this budget is to restrict the expenditures rather than to make cuts," Villar said.

Three opposition senators—Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal—said they voted for the budget but with reservations, particularly about the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Pimentel said he objected to the DENR budget because the department had "underperformed" while Madrigal said the department's performance was "not up to par."

It took three days of interpellations led by Madrigal before the DENR budget of P5 billion was finally approved.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, who did not take part in the plenary voting, criticized the approved budget as rendering government "impotent" in funding social services and fighting poverty.

In a speech assailing the measure late Wednesday, Angara said the budget had been programmed to pay debts and not much else, "and thus could not be expected to lift the country from its sorry place as Asia's basket-case."

More Pinoys deported from Malaysia

y Jerome Aning

ESPITE the suspension of a nationide crackdown on illegal aliens in alaysia, a total of 280 Filipinos, ostly from Sabah, have been deportd to Zamboanga City, Labor Secretary atricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Sto. Tomas told reporters that even the Malaysian government had ostponed the crackdown at the end f the three-month amnesty period on Feb. 1, state and local immigration laws would still be enforced.

"The drive against illegal aliens did not stop just because the crackdown was suspended. There is no preventing police and immigration officers in communities from arresting illegal aliens in compliance with the current local laws," Sto. Tomas explained.

Under Malaysia's federal setup, the states of Sabah and Sarawak retain constitutional rights to control immigration.

Citing a report from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Region 9 office, Sto. Tomas said the latest deportees, numbering about 259, arrived in the city the other day on board MV Mary Joy.

The rest of the deportees arrived on other ships as early as Feb. 5.

Among the latest deportees, according to Owwa Region 9 director Samuel Madrid, were three women who were victims of illegal recruitment.

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PIATCO FIASCO

Graft charges filed vs 3 ex-DOTC chiefs

By Armand N. Nocum

GRAFT charges were filed yesterday against three former secretaries of transportation, two undersecretaries, an airport manager and five corporation officials in connection with the controversial construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport that has now spanned three presidencies.

Charged with graft before the Sandiganbayan for entering into a "grossly disadvantageous" contract with private consortium Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) were former Transportation Secretaries Vicente Rivera Jr. and Pantaleon Alvarez, who were appointed by ousted President Joseph Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo, respectively.

Earlier, the Ombudsman had recommended the filing of graft charges against former Transportation Secretary Arturo Enrile, an appointee of ex-President Fidel V. Ramos, but Enrile died years ago.

Piatco built the new airport terminal together with German and Japanese partners.

Also charged were former Transportation and Communication Undersecretaries Primitivo Cal and Wilfredo Trinidad, chair and member, respectively, of the public bids and awards committee (PBAC) of the Naia 3 project.

Trinidad had briefly served as acting transportation and communication secretary in 2001.

P30,000 bail

Other respondents were former Manila International Airport Authority general manager Francisco Atayde, and Piatco chair Henry T. Go, Piatco president Cheng Yong, Piatco directors Hans Arthur Vogel and Bern L. Struck, and Alfonso Liongson, Piatco consultant.

Bail for the accused was set at P30,000 each, but Go would have to pay P90,000 for three graft counts, and Trinidad P60,000, for their temporary freedom.

Alvarez, Cal, Atayde and Trinidad, then key PBAC officials, were accused of "conspiring, confederating and mutually helping each other" to "unlawfully and criminally" grant favors to the PairCargo Consortium, which was later incorporated into Piatco.

In a complaint filed by Donna B. Pascual, graft investigation and prosecution officer in the Office of the Ombudsman, the four were accused of awarding the project to Piatco in 1996 despite "knowing" that the firm was "not a qualified bidder as it had no financial capability to undertake the project at the time of the pre-qualification under the BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) Law."

Thus, Piatco is "not legally entitled to such privilege or benefit, to the damage and prejudice of the government," Pascual's complaint read.

Rivera and Go were accused of amending the contract with Piatco in 1998 to "provide that the government shall assume the liabilities of Piatco in the event of the latter's default," a condition "more beneficial to Piatco and in violation of the BOT Law."

'Substantial deviation'

Go was also charged with conspiring with the late Enrile to make a "substantial deviation" from the contract, which "obliged the government to pay P180 million" to Piatco in the event the Pasig regional trial court nullified the construction contract of Naia 3.

Trinidad, Yong, Vogel, Struck and Liongson were faulted for negotiating in 2001 the construction of a "less expensive access road" to connect Naia 3 with Naia Terminal 2, "instead of an access tunnel, which Piatco was supposed to build, which resulted in immense savings to Piatco."

Atayde and Alvarez were also accused of granting a franchise to Piatco, even if they were not entitled to do so.

The Piatco controversy has stalled the opening of the $465-million Naia 3 terminal for two years now.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the Ombudsman has made the case one of the 40 "big cases" they will work to resolve before Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo ends his term in five years.

Villa-Ignacio said resolving the Piatco case—as well as those involving the Marcoses, Estradas, tax credits, lifestyle checks and others—would work to deter graft and show that the Arroyo administration was serious about putting grafters in jail.

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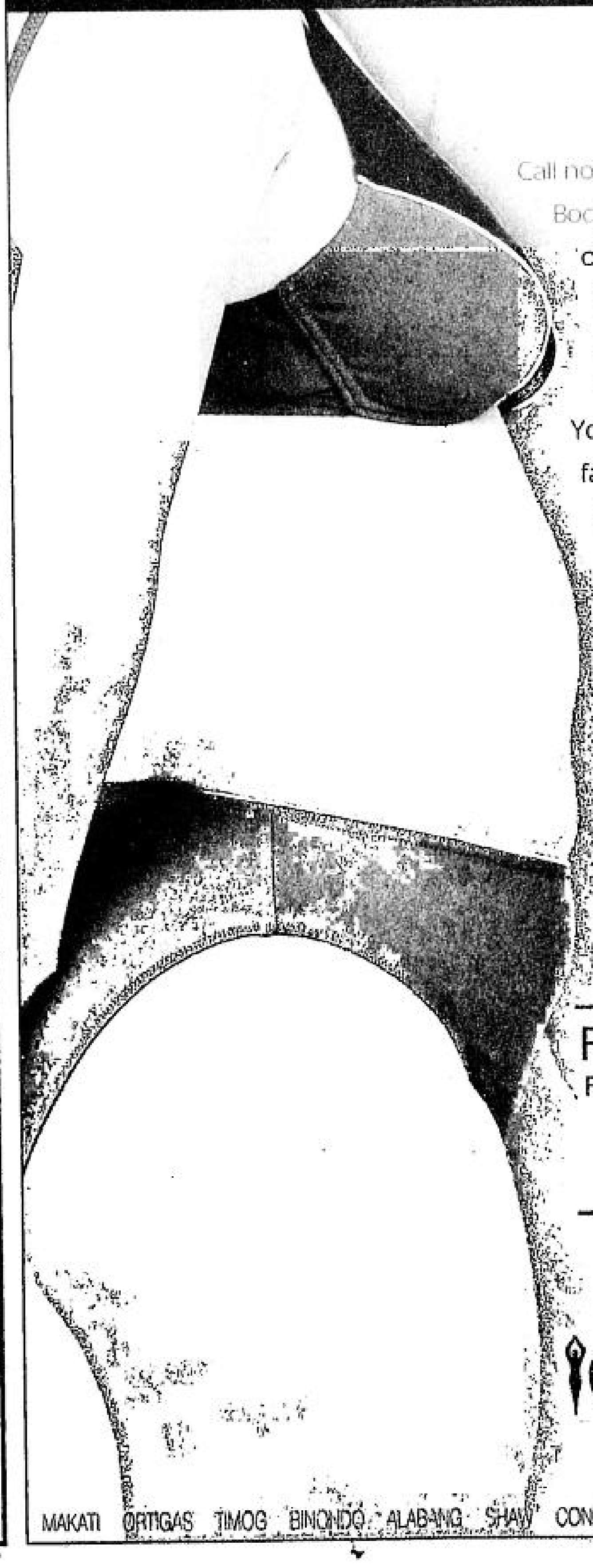

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DEFECTIVE CHARGE SHEETS

300 Oakwood mutineers delay arraignment anew

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARRAIGNMENT of close to 300 soldiers who took part in the failed Oakwood mutiny in July 2003 was deferred again yesterday after a military court hearing their case said the charge sheets submitted by the prosecution for three violations of the Articles of War were "defective in form."

In yesterday's general court-martial proceedings held in Camp Aguinaldo, the military court headed by Brig. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo directed military prosecutors to "correct" errors and erasures in the charge sheet, which outlined the charges brought against the soldiers.

Defense lawyers led by Ruel Pulido and Theodore Te protested corrections in the charge sheet, particularly the crossing out of Maj. Antonio Villamin's name in the charge sheet for violation of Article of War 96 or conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Reinvestigation

They said Villamin's exclusion from the charges should result in either a reinvestigation of the case or annulment of the charges.

"This court has directed to defer the arraignment in charge three (Article of War 96) and directed the Trial Judge Advocate to take appropriate action on the questioned changes, particularly on the erasures and typographical errors," ordered Navy Capt. Nemesio Dabal, law member of the court-martial, after an executive session.

The court also set the next hearing on Feb. 17.

Bocobo later told reporters that the directive also covered all charge sheets for Article of War 96, Article of War 63 (disrespect toward the President) and Article of War 64 (disrespect toward superior officers).

"We ruled to postpone the reading of charges and the arraignment because there have been questions from the defense panel over the erasure of the name of Maj. Villamin," Bocobo said in Filipino.

Col. Julius Magno of the prosecution said in open court the erasure was "not substantial enough to affect the document."

Bocobo agreed, later explaining to reporters after the hearing that these were only "formal corrections" to the charge sheet.

But Te, however, pointed out that if Villamin's name was taken out of the charge sheet, there should have been an explanation and a withdrawal of that charge.

The same boat

"Villamin et al are charged together apparently as part of a conspiracy. Why will you remove one person if they are all in the same boat? What we are asking is that particular charge be actually withdrawn because it is defective," Te told reporters.

Pulido added there might be a need for a new pre-trial investigation because of the defective charge sheet. "It needs another pre-trial. They are saying that it is not a formal defect. To begin with, it should not have been there. Because we are living with a defective document. You cannot proceed with a defective charge sheet."

Prosecutors also brought before the court Maj. Orlando Landingin Jr., who submitted an affidavit explaining the erasure.

Landingin told the court that he crossed out Villamin's name with a permanent marker since the pre-trial investigation revealed that the officer was not present at the Oakwood luxury apartments when the Magdalo soldiers seized it on July 27, 2003.

According to Landingin, he informed verbally then Judge Advocate General Brig. Gen. Manuel Sarmiento about the dropping of the charges against Villamin. He said Sarmiento gave a verbal approval.

Landingin admitted, though, that military court rules do not allow the crossing out of an accused soldier's name with a pen.

San Beda HS '62 reunion party set

MEMBERS of San Beda College High School '62 will hold a welcome party on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. on 19 Intsia Road, South Forbes Park, Makati City.

The affair is part of the activities highlighting the reunion of San Beda HS '62 this year.

The week-long celebration, which will include various out-of-town activities for batch members and their families, will be capped by a farewell dinner at the penthouse of Gercon Plaza to be hosted by Manila Kemo Sabes.

San Beda College HS '62 members may contact Manny Estacion at 0917-7919369 or Mar Soriano at 0918-9131032 or 0917-8118278.

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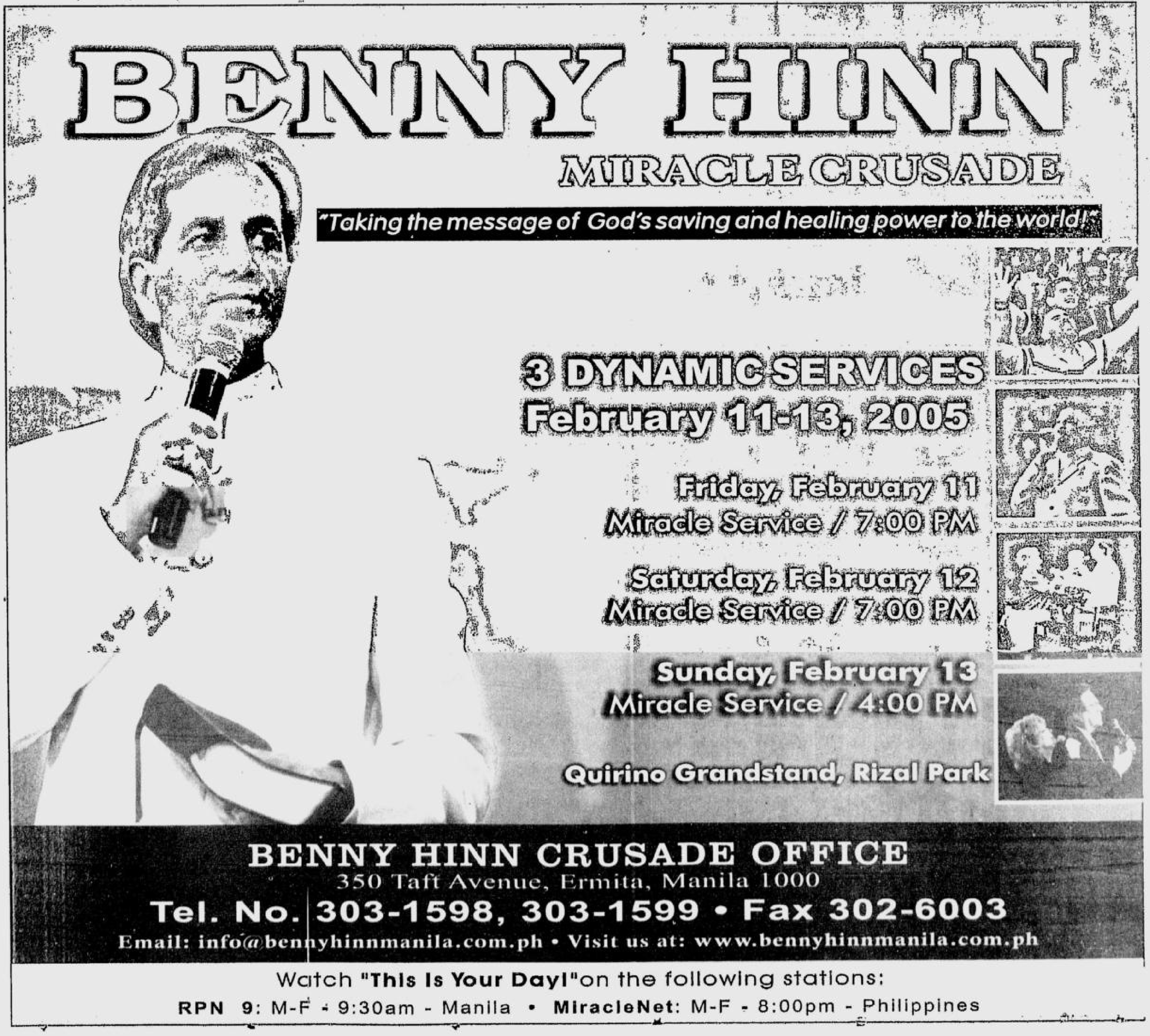
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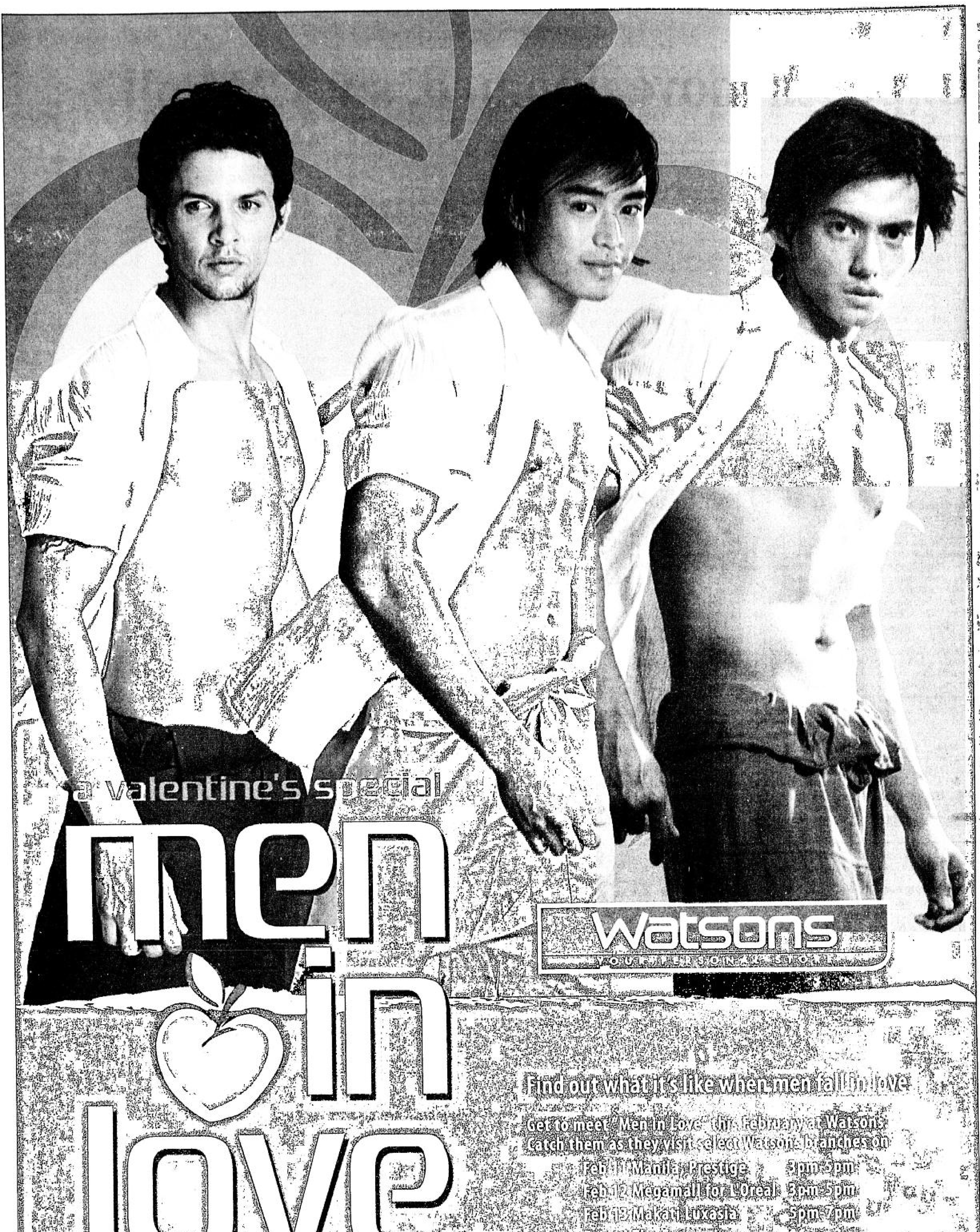

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Impeach move doomed, say GMA allies

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

AN IMPEACHMENT complaint has yet to be filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo but this early the lawmakers who would make the preliminary evaluation are saying it is "doomed from the start."

Three members of the House committee on justice, including its vice chair, issued a joint statement yesterday saying they would work for the "immediate dismissal" of any impeachment complaint that may be filed before the panel.

They were Lakas Reps. Marcelino Libanan (Eastern Samar), panel vice chair, and members Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City) and Isidoro Real (Zamboanga del Sur).

"The opposition is desperately trying to revive dead issues in the absence of new charges against the President," Libanan said.

'Extraordinary' session

But an "extraordinary" session will be called next week by a group of Constitution experts to determine if they would support Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s call for the impeachment of the President.

Pimentel told reporters yesterday the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) board would meet on Feb. 14.

"(They) will determine whether or not they would take action on my challenge to them," he said.

Pimentel earlier this week had urged Philconsa to initiate an impeachment complaint against the President for alleged violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the public trust on three counts.

Pimentel cited as one basis Ms Arroyo's alleged use of public funds, reportedly drawn from the road users' tax and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, in her campaign for the May 10 elections.

But some opposition congressmen said they first wanted to see Pimentel's evidence against the President.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, for one, said the opposition wanted to see a "real, clear and certain basis for impeachment" before the bloc filed a complaint.

Escudero said the opposition did not want to rush the filing of an impeachment complaint because should it be dismissed, they would have to wait a full year before they could file another one.

"I don't care what other opposition people want to do or not want to do," Pimentel said.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson doubted an impeachment complaint against the President would prosper because, "she controls the House," he said.

Rehashed charges

Libanan dismissed the allegations against President Arroyo as "rehashed charges."

"We will not allow the justice committee to be a venue for politicking," he said.

Puentevella, for his part, scoffed at Pimentel's claim that the President could be impeached for making too many appointments in government.

"The Administrative Code allows her to create and dissolve positions for better public service," Puentevella said.

Under the Constitution, the House committee on justice first determines if an impeachment complaint is sufficient in both form and substance.

"The impeachment rap predictably will be voted down by the justice committee for lack of substance," Puentevella said.

An impeachment complaint would not prosper in the administration-dominated House, according to Real, "because the President committed no culpable violation of the Constitution."

Strongman's daughter hits militarization of bureaucracy

By Carlito Pablo, Cynthia Balana and Christian V. Esguerra

IT WAS her father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who all but institutionalized the practice of packing the civilian bureaucracy with retired and active generals to keep the men with the arms happy.

But the irony was lost on Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos who yesterday trashed President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment as public works secretary of Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., the national security adviser who is a former chief of the Philippine National Police.

She said Ebdane's appointment to the Cabinet proved that Ms Arroyo was "not remiss about paying her dues to the military and its pseudo-civilian persona, the Philippine National Police."

Marcos said the President may have learned her lesson all too well against neglecting the "men with the gun."

Ms Arroyo rose to power on the back of a military-backed popular uprising that ousted her predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

Marcos, a member of the congressional Commission on Appointments, said the President's objective was to "satiate" the military establishment with appointments in powerful positions to discourage military adventurism.

Engineering background

She cited other former military men in top government positions like Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, Ambassador Roy Cimatu, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Subic antismuggling task force chief Jose Calimlim, and Narciso Abaya, the president and chief operating officer of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Two House members, however, welcomed the appointment of Ebdane.

Rep. Eric Singson, chair of the House committee on public works and highways, said that aside from his engineering background, Ebdane had the capability to unite the fractious DPWH whose rank-and-file employees had agitated against former DPWH head Florante Soriquez, who was sacked by Ms Arroyo the other day.

Rep. Faysah Dumarpa (Lakas, Lanao del Sur), chair of the House committee on social welfare, said that Ebdane's knowledge of how to handle peace and order problems would help in the delivery of infrastructure to the impoverished Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"The ARMM has been lagging behind in development largely because of the peace and order problem there. Ebdane... knows about the dynamic of bringing in infrastructure, ensuring it gets done despite threats and its beneficial effect in bringing about peace," Dumarpa said.

At the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said he was puzzled at the Ebdane appointment and asked why the President seemed to have "a narrow pool of talent" from which to pick Cabinet appointments.

Shallow pool

"There are many top-rate engineers in our country with tremendous experience in public works. Why is her pool very narrow, practically limited to ex-police, ex-military?" the senator said.

He urged Ms Arroyo to widen her pool and bring into government multiple talents instead of relying on one "subsector of society."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Ebdane would have a "tough time" getting confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. She doubted the CA would continue to encourage the practice of appointing generals to the Cabinet, which she said should have been stopped years ago.

Santiago said she was against the practice as "the mindset of a military [man] is completely different from that of a civilian," noting that military people have a culture of obedience and not of critical analysis.

"If you put them in civilian positions, they expect to be obeyed. They cannot take criticism, especially constructive criticism in the correct spirit because the military structure is so authoritarian," she said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Ebdane could prove he is worthy of the job by curbing the rampant corruption in the DPWH bureaucracy.

Camp Crame officials meanwhile are convinced that their boss, PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay, would succeed Ebdane as national security adviser.

One officer said was "just a matter of time" before Aglipay, who only has 30 days left as PNP chief, is appointed to the Cabinet.

Aglipay yesterday at first denied that he would get the post vacated by Ebdane, noting that chief of staff Norberto Gonzales had been reappointed to his old post.

Up to God

But when told that the Gonzales appointment could be temporary, Aglipay said, "It's up to God Almighty where He'll put me."

"I think He already gave me the one thing I'd always yearned for. In whatever position He'll grant me, I'll do my best once again," he said.

Speculation is also rife at Camp Crame that Aglipay is being considered to head the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. Aglipay used to head the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force.

Amid the guessing game, what's certain is that Aglipay will go on a 10-day leave, cutting the remainder of his term to only 20 days.

He will be attending an antiterrorism conference at Lyon, France, from Feb. 25 to March 7. *With reports from Nikko Dizon and Christine Avendaño*

Sacked DPWH chief says he'll be cleared

OUTGOING Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, who was sacked from his post the other day, yesterday said he was confident that the investigation of the corruption allegations against him would end "without a scratch on my integrity."

SORIQUEZ

Soriquez, who was returned to his old post of undersecretary, continued to blame DPWH officials affected by his reforms for the massive disinformation campaign and black propaganda that led to his ouster.

"(They) are motivated by fear of losing their grip on opportunities for graft," he said in a press statement.

In a briefing, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Soriquez, who is accused of taking kickbacks in government infrastructure projects, was given a choice between retiring or sliding back to undersecretary.

Ermita said Soriquez opted to stay on, saying he had nothing to fear and wanted to face the charges like a man.

Soriquez said the last few weeks at the DPWH were the most trying of his 43-year career in government service.

"I am confident that the reforms will find its rightful end and I am hopeful that in the end, it is the interest of the people that shall win," he said.

Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza early this week accused Soriquez of receiving kickbacks from government projects. Key public works officers also withdrew their support from him for alleged weak leadership and insincerity.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, meanwhile, has ordered incoming Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane to "crack down" on corruption in one of the most graft-ridden agencies of government.

"His main problem now is how to cleanse the DPWH especially in the light of all of these mutual hurling of charges," said the President in a speech in Sarangani province.

She urged Ebdane to start cracking on devising a plan to attack the problem at the DPWH this weekend "because he starts work on Monday."

The President also defended her former national police chief from critics who have again raised the issue of creeping militarization in the Cabinet.

"Technically, he's an engineer, so there's no problem," she said.

In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ebdane was "tailor-fit to sustain the clean-up and streamlining of the DPWH."

Jerome Aning and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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Poison awards for river polluters to go nationwide

By Volt Contreras

BUOYED by its initial success in dealing with polluting firms along the Pasig River, the annual "Lason sa Ilog Award" is going nationwide to expose business establishments found responsible for dirtying waterways.

"Lason" (poison) organizers, led by the Earth Day Network and supported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, are accepting "nominations" beginning today in the shame campaign against factories and other establishments that lack waste water treatment facilities or otherwise dump their wastes into rivers, bays and streams.

The campaign is one of EDN's projects in the run-up to the celebration of International Earth Day on April 22.

EDN executive director Toby Tañada said that like the original award which had focused on polluting establishments backing the Pasig River, the National Lason sa Ilog Award intends to "pressure" businesses near waterways into complying with the waste water treatment standards set by the DENR.

"From our experience, an industry can be forced to improve its operations after we have exposed it as a Lason awardee," said Tañada, a son of former Sen. Wigberto Tañada.

"Being identified as a Lason awardee has an impact on how consumers see a company. Marketing-wise, the [firm would] have to do something about that image," he added.

At a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, Tañada presented a virtual "who's who" of Philippine companies that had been slapped Lason awards since the citations began in 1996.

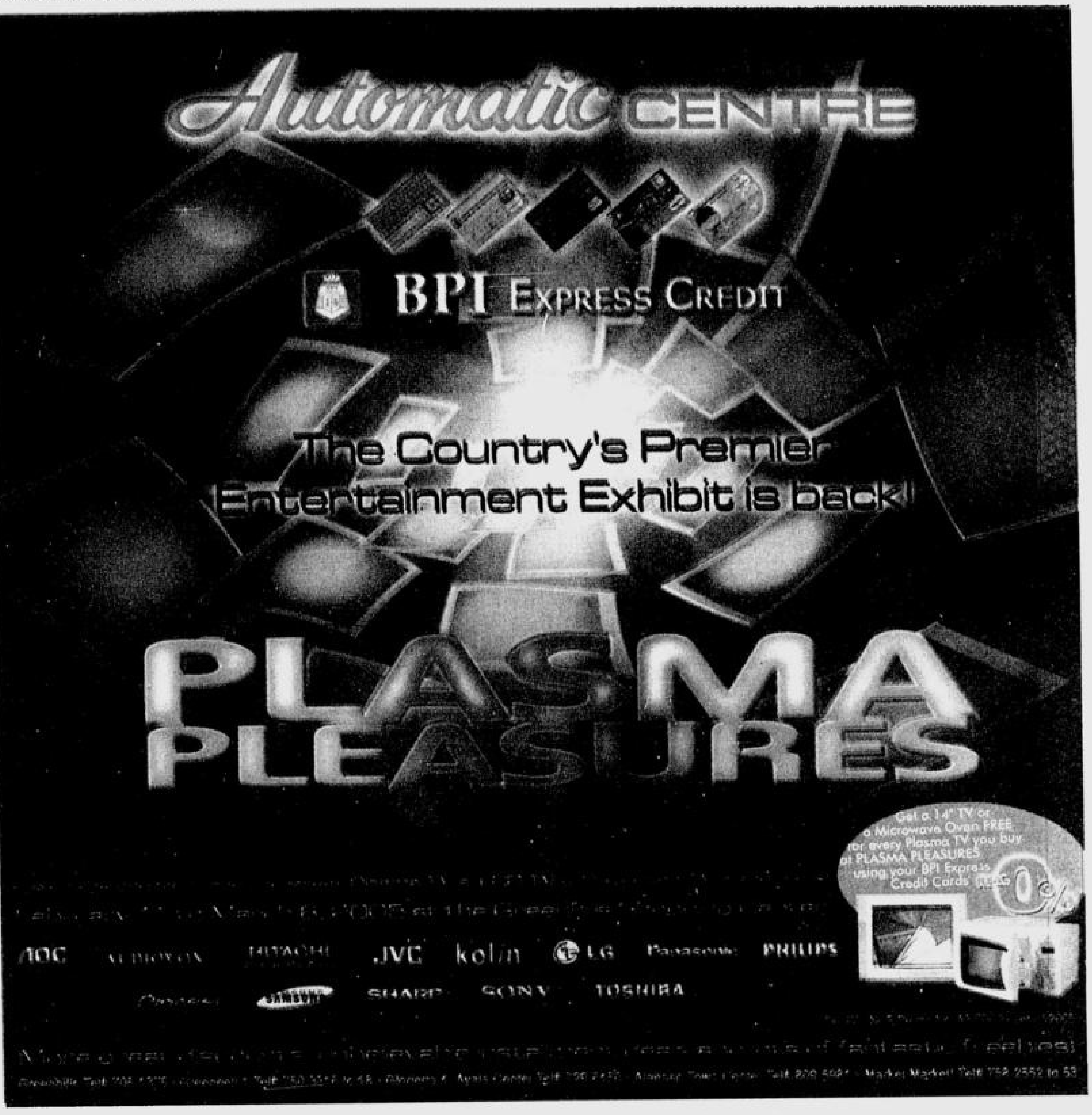
The list included giant food companies (hamburger chains, pastry shops, roasted chicken stands, specialty restaurants), shopping centers, glass and plastics plants, animal feed and textile factories, and even an association of hog raisers.

Former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, Tañada's predecessor at EDN, observed that "exerting public pressure on companies (through such mock awards) has actually proven more effective than actual... enforcement" of environmental laws.

The nomination period will run up to March 25. Parties that may nominate violators are local government units, academic institutions, nongovernment organizations, church and civic groups, and people's organizations.

For details, interested parties may call the Sagip Pasig Movement at 929-6626 loc. 2216, or 0919-3765748; or e-mail at ilog_lasonaward@yahoo.com.

Nominated companies will be inspected, the complaints against them verified by technical experts, until the EDN—which has some 2,000 affiliate groups nationwide—comes up with a short list of worst-polluting firms to receive the awards.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The most vicious crime in RP history

From page A1

A hundred thousand noncombatant men, women and children died. The overwhelming number of casualties were Filipinos, but the dead also included neutral or friendly nationalities like the Swiss, Irish, Russians, Spanish, Germans and others. Among Asian nationals, Chinese and Indians suffered considerably.

The military casualties included almost all of the Japanese garrison of over 16,000 men, and about 1,000 dead and 5,500 wounded among the American forces of liberation.

Only city in Pacific destroyed

Manila was the only Allied capital in the Pacific to be destroyed.

The American historian William Manchester recorded that 70 percent of utilities, 75 percent of factories, 80 percent of the southern residential district and 100 percent of the business district were razed. **(American Caesar, p. 413.)**

The Japanese did their utmost to make the city unlivable, dynamiting the bridges across the Pasig River, destroying utilities like electric power, telephones and public transportation (the street cars were used as antitank barriers), and even attempting (and for three weeks succeeding) in cutting off the water supply.

For six months after the battle, the stench of rotting corpses hung heavy over the ruins of the martyred metropolis.

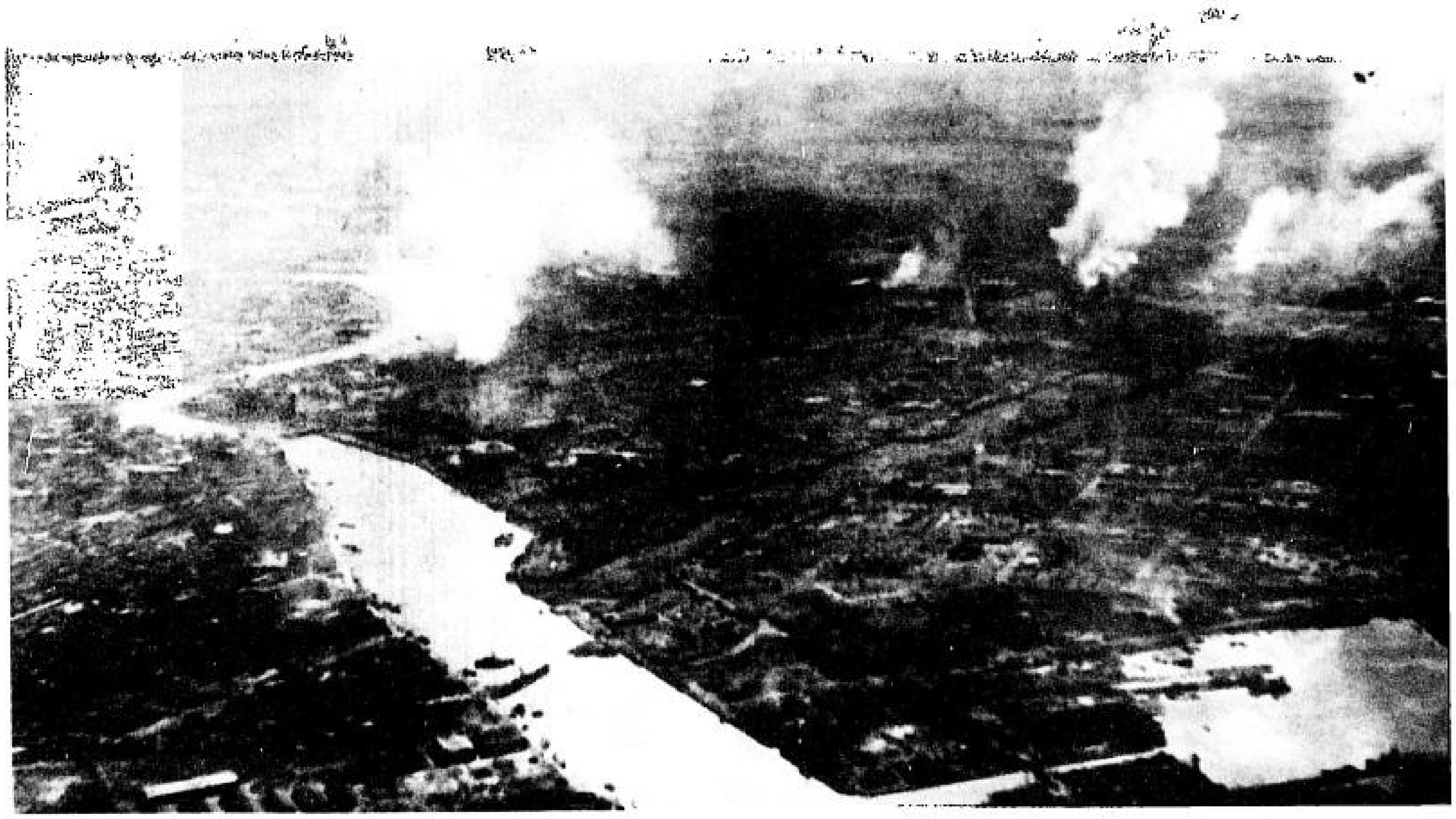
Civilians slaughtered

Of all Allied cities in World War II, only Warsaw suffered more.

But Warsaw was destroyed as the result of an urban uprising starting on Aug. 1, 1944 by the Polish Home Army, with civilians fighting alongside, and the ruin resulted from the savage German reprisals that followed.

There was no such uprising in Manila. The civilians huddled fearfully in their homes and evacuation centers, but they were slaughtered anyway.

If Manila was second to Warsaw in terms of destruction, it was second to Nanking (now Nanjing) in the number of casualties in Asia. There in December 1937, the Japanese raped, tortured and murdered more than 300,000 Chinese civilians, an atrocity that the Japanese government still denies.



THE JAPANESE decided to make Manila a battleground instead of declaring it an "Open City" as MacAthur had done in 1941 at the approach of the Japanese forces.

PDI ARCHIVES

Rape of Manila

The difference was that the rape of Nanking lasted longer (six weeks), and was perpetrated by a Japanese military in an arrogant mood of victory.

The rape of Manila, on the other hand, was committed by a Japanese military facing defeat and annihilation, and already in a frame of mind that was both murderous and suicidal. This had been seen on Saipan in the summer of 1944, when even Japanese civilians preferred suicide to surrender. This would become even clearer in the subsequent battle for Okinawa, which lasted from April into late June, marked by hundreds of kamikaze attacks, far more than the few dozen used during the Philippine battles.

Forms of killings

The killings in Manila took many forms. Sometimes they were individual murders with shots to the head or by bayonetting or beheading. Sometimes they were massacres of whole families, or groups of people, confined in buildings and blasted with hand grenades. Women were raped, then sliced with bayonets from groin to throat and left to bleed to death under the hot sun.

Children were seized by the legs and had their heads bashed against the wall. Babies were tossed in the air and caught on bayonet points, or skewered with bayonets on the ground and lifted into the air. Unborn fetuses were gouged out with bayonets from pregnant women.

'Instant comfort women'

The Manila atrocities were, in the words of Yamashita's defense counsel, "studded with rape." This was not only in connection with the killings, but in moves to force ordinary girls into being what might be called "instant comfort women" to sate the lewd desire of the lust-ridden soldiery.

Notorious was the case of the Bay View Hotel, which the Japanese filled with women fleeing from their burning homes. When the women became aware of the Japanese designs, they took whatever defensive measures they could.

The younger girls were sent to the rear of the rooms, and the more mature women placed themselves nearer the entrance and offered themselves to the soldiers. Especially helpful in this regard were prostitutes, including Russian women from Shanghai who normally worked the high end of the flesh market. At least one girl was spared because she was having her period.

Barbarities recorded

Filipino survivors have written about these barbarities, like Lourdes Reyes Montinola, board chair of Far Eastern University, and Spanish author Antonio Perez de Olaguer has compiled the stories of many victims.

There were also foreign eyewitnesses like Austrian couple Hans and Mona Lisa Steiner, German Jewish refugee Frank Ephraim, and Hungarian ballet personality Paul Szilard.

Manila could have been spared if, as MacArthur had done in December 1941, it had been declared an Open City. But Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, overall Japanese ground commander in the Philippines, fended off requests by Filipino officials of the pitiable Occupation "republic" to make such a declaration.

Although he had pulled most of his forces to three mountain redoubts and said he had decided not to defend Manila (but did intend to blow up the Pasig River bridges), Yamashita had left detachments totaling about 4,000 men supposedly to guard military supplies that were being removed. At least that is what he told his legal counsel at that time.

But why was it taking them weeks to carry out what MacArthur had done in a few days in 1941? They must have been doing something more.

In fact the Japanese army did not limit themselves to guarding and removing supplies, but took part in the demolition of civilian buildings and the shooting of non-combatants on the north bank of the Pasig.

Filipino traitors

Not all civilian death were traceable to the Japanese. They were assisted, particularly in the burning of houses, by traitorous Filipino Makapilis. Many thousands also died as a result of excessive and indiscriminate American shelling.

But ultimate moral culpability must attach to those who ordered Manila to be converted into a battlefield and, even worse, a killing ground, namely, the Japanese.

The invidious title of "Butcher of Manila" undoubtedly belongs to the Imperial Japanese Manila Naval Defense Force under the command of Admiral Sanji Iwabuchi, who perished during the battle.

His mission was supposedly also to destroy military supplies and installations. But this oversimplification is belied by the frantic activity in the last weeks before the entry of American troops in building up defensive strong points, often with the help of forced labor picked up off the streets.

Preparing defense

To this day one can still see a naval cannon emplaced in the hoary walls of Intramuros. Obviously Iwabuchi was preparing for defense, not mere demolition.

And whence came the decision to engage in the widespread massacres of civilians and destruction of civilian buildings? Did Iwabuchi act on his individual initiative, or did he receive, as suggested in a documentary film of the time, "Orders from Tokyo?"

RP's fanatical resistance

Gen. Akira Muto, Yamashita's chief of staff, stated that in all other conquered areas of Southeast Asia the local populations had been acquiescent, if not cooperative.

Only in the Philippines did the Japanese encounter "fanatical resistance."

Was Tokyo punishing the Filipinos for such resistance? We do not know for sure. Between the announcement of Japan's surrender and the start of the Allied occupation, two weeks elapsed, and in those two weeks many incriminating documents were undoubtedly hidden or destroyed.

Worst of Japanese

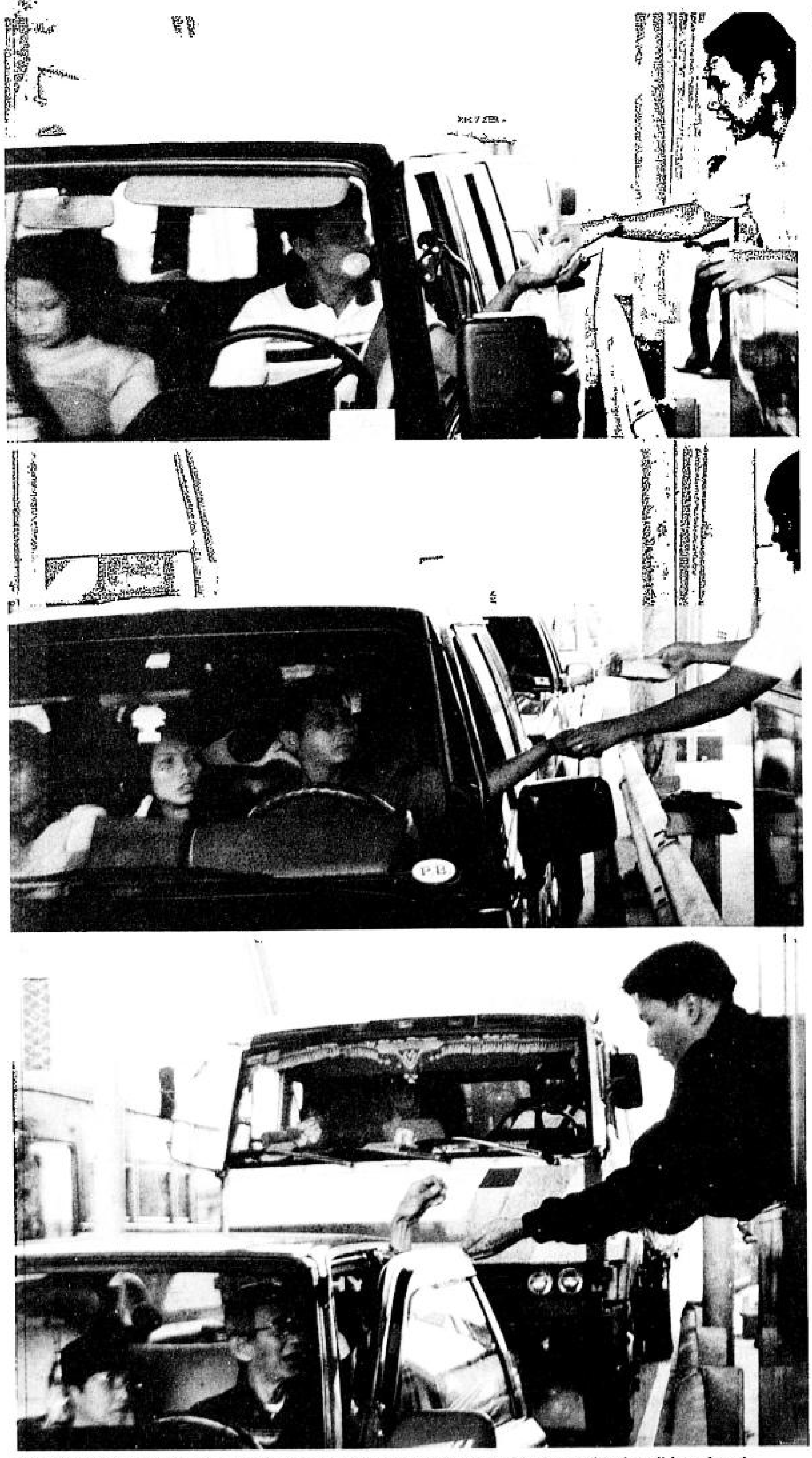
While Manilans probably nursed faint hopes for the declaration of an Open City, these hopes became increasingly forlorn as defense works were visibly built up.

When the debacle finally came, it seemed to be no surprise to anyone. The cruelties to war prisoners in 1942 and three years of a brutally repressive occupation had conditioned people to expect the worst of the Japanese. But even so, they probably did not expect them to go to the extremes that they did.

Depths of evil

Nobody could imagine that they would plumb the nethermost depths of evil and one had to ask what conceivable military objective was attained by the mass slaughter of non-combatants.

Motorists grumble over 400% hike in NLEX toll fees



WITHOUT warning, the toll fees for the North Luzon Expressway hit the roof and so did confused motorists traversing the expressway which opened for traffic on Thursday.

MITCH MAURICIO

From page A1

from Sta. Rita, P78; from Pulilan, P95; from San Simon, P124; from San Fernando, P146; from Angeles, P187, and from Dau, P203.

Ochoa said fees were not collected at the Balintawak, Bocaue (Bulacan), San Fernando and Dau (Pampanga) gates at various times of the day.

She said MNTC had anticipated a situation in which motorists would inquire about or argue over the new rates: "These tell us of the need to [conduct] more public information work on the benefits of using the new NLEX."

However, Ochoa said, no incidents of hostility occurred—a statement that Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, police operations chief in Central Luzon, confirmed.

'Die-in,' etc.

But there was a picket at the Guiguinto gate in Bulacan as residents demanded its opening to traffic.

At the San Fernando exit, some 100 members of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya and the Alyansa ng Mamamayan at Transport Sektor Laban sa NLEX Toll held a "die-in" before noon, according to KPD Central Luzon spokesperson Aurora Broquil.

"The new rates are too much. Drivers of public jeepneys and buses are seeing their small income go to the toll payment," Alyansa spokesperson Tom Talavera told the INQUIRER by phone.

Anakbayan had set its protest action today, but conducted a picket as early as Wednesday.

'Exorbitant' rates

Pampanga Board Member Aurelio Gonzales said the Provincial Board Members League in Central Luzon yesterday submitted a resolution to the Office of the President bewailing the "exorbitant" rates.

In Bulacan, motorists complained that the previous P14 fee from Tabang to Balintawak was now P75.

They said that even if a motorist had to take only the Marilao exit, a P75 toll fee was demanded because of MNTC's "closed system" policy.

The toll payment for all southbound motorists who enter Tabang is at the Bocaue toll plaza, except for those who will exit in Bocaue.

The list of the rates under the "closed system" are posted in small letters only at the Bocaue toll plaza.

GMA declares Feb. 25 special nonworking holiday

From page A1

said Edsa I "restored our democratic institutions and ushered in meaningful political, social and economic reforms in the country."

"Whereas, it is but fitting and proper that the people of the Philippines be given full opportunity to honor the memory of the Edsa People Power Revolution with appropriate ceremonies," Ms Arroyo said.

The President has asked the Edsa People Power Commission to prepare the activities to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the peaceful uprising.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

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DepEd to continue GMA outstanding student awards

By Dona Pazzibugan

SPECIAL student awards created in the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo will again be given out this year.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad has decided to continue the controversial "President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Award of Outstanding Achievement" that was introduced last year at the height of the presidential campaign.

A host of other special student awards are already given out during graduation.

These are usually sponsored by the local government officials and the school's benefactors.

Abad has ordered the principals in each of the 4,500 public high schools in the country to make room for another award.

Five students per school would get the presidential award for outstanding achievement in extra-curricular activities.

Last week Abad said he would be banning extra-curricular activities during school hours.

The five categories of the presidential award are student leadership; campus journalism; athletics; culture and arts; and technology and entrepreneurship.

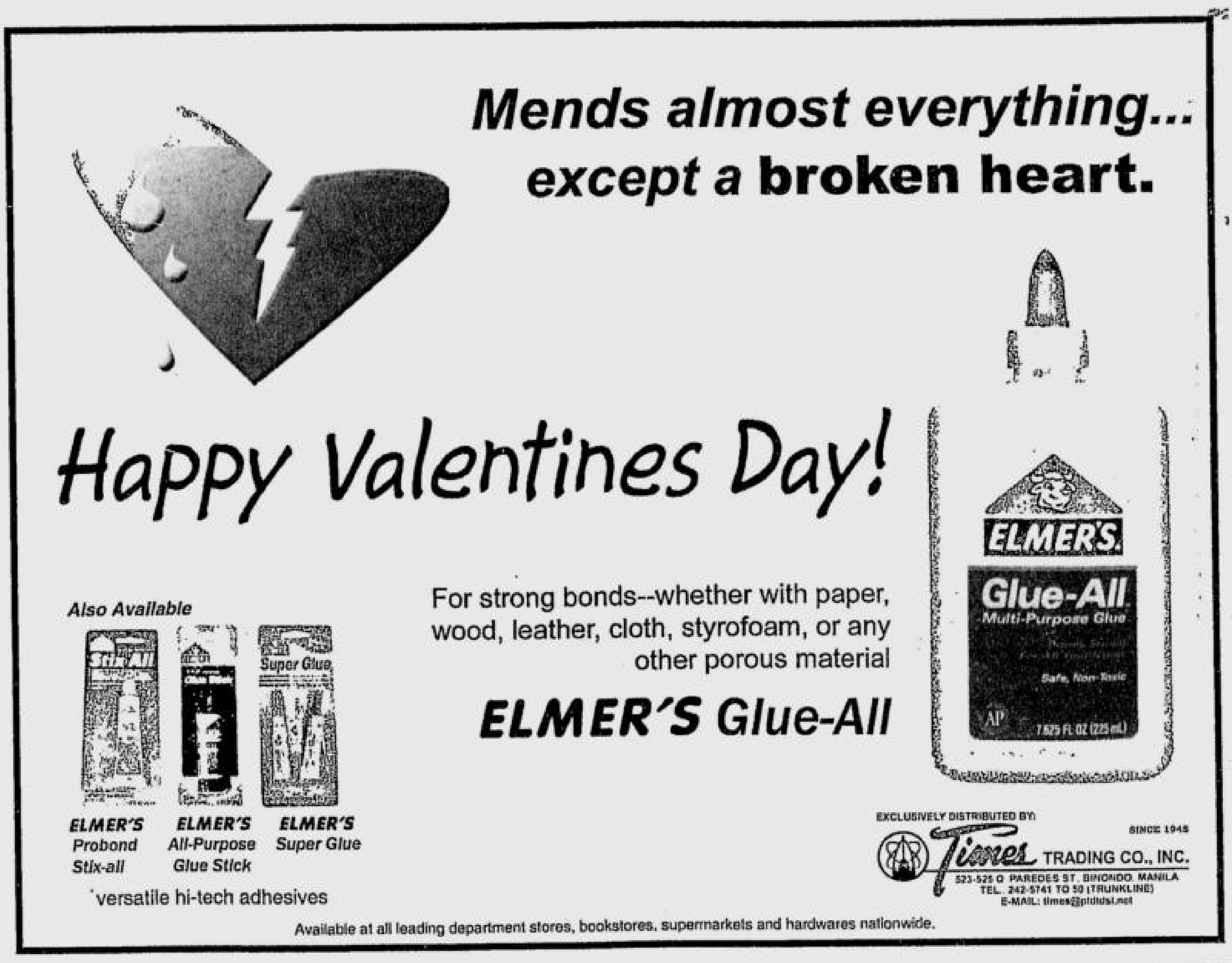
Like the last time, the presidential award will not come with a monetary reward.

The student-awardees will just get a certificate with the prominent seal of the Office of the President, and signed by the President and Abad.

By coming up with such award last March, the DepEd had been criticized for allowing public high schools to be used for Ms Macapagal's electoral bid.

Ms Macapagal's message was also read out during graduation rites in all colleges and universities and public elementary and high schools in March last year.

In her message, which contains a reference to the May elections, the President cited her achievements in education.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2nd to 61st Placers - Outlay of ₱171,000 for each of the sixty (60) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees throughout the course in any of the four- or five-year programs requiring board exams offered at the TIP ....₱10,260,000.00

Total ....₱10,531,000.00

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2nd to 51st Placers - Outlay of ₱125,400.00 for each of the fifty (50) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees throughout the Accountancy program at TIP Manila ....₱6,270,000.00

52nd to 131st Placers - Outlay of ₱13,630.00 for each of the eighty (80) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees for one (1) semester in the Accountancy program at TIP Manila ....₱1,090,400.00

Total....................₱7,545,800.00

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2nd to 41st Placers - Outlay of ₱171,000.00 for each of the forty (40) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees throughout the Architecture program or in any four- or five-year Engineering program requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱6,840,000.00

42nd to 101st Placers - Outlay of ₱13,500.00 for each of the sixty (60) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous school fees for one (1) semester in Architecture or in any four- or five-year Engineering program requiring board examinations offered at the TIP ....₱810,000.00

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■ 2 copies of 2" x 2" ID Picture

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■ Pres. Elpidio Quirino Friday, March 4, 2005
■ Gov. Demetrio Quirino, Sr. Friday, March 11, 2005
■ Sec. Guillermo De Vega Friday, March 18, 2005

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS:
■ Pres. Elpidio Quirino Saturday, March 5, 2005
■ Gov. Demetrio Quirino, Sr. Saturday, March 12, 2005
■ Sec. Guillermo De Vega Saturday, March 19, 2005

■ TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS:
9:00-11:00 AM, TIP MANILA AND TIP QUEZON CITY

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		₱1,000.00 Stipend per Semester	2 Semesters
1.2	Salutatorian	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	2 Semesters
		₱1,000.00 Stipend per Semester	1 Semester
1.3	3rd-10th Ranking High School Graduate	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	1 Semester
2.	OTHER DISCOUNTS BASED ON GENERAL AVERAGE IN 4TH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL OR FINAL GRADE IN MATH IV, ENGLISH IV, OR SCIENCE IV		
2.1	90% or above	Free Tuition and Basic Miscellaneous Fees	1 Semester
2.2	85% - 89%	Free Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.3	83% - 84%	80% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.4	81% - 82%	60% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nokor announces it has made A-bombs

SEOUL—North Korea declared on Thursday for the first time that it possessed nuclear weapons and said it was suspending participation in six-way talks on dismantling its nuclear programs for an indefinite period.

The announcement sent out shockwaves among neighboring capitals, coming when some of the world's largest military powers have been trying to coax the reclusive communist North to return to talks aimed at ending its nuclear ambitions.

"We had already taken the resolute action of pulling out of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and have manufactured nukes to cope with the Bush administration's evermore undisguised policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK," the North's Korean Central News Agency quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The statement is the North's first official response since US President George W. Bush said in his inauguration speech on Jan. 20 that he was committed to ending tyranny.

While Bush did not specify countries, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has singled out North Korea as one of six she said practiced tyranny.

The tirade from the foreign ministry referred directly to US statements as Pyongyang's reason for boosting its defenses.

"The true intention of the second-term Bush administration is not only to further its policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK pursued by the first-term office but to escalate it," the foreign ministry said.

"The Bush administration termed the DPRK, its dialogue partner, an outpost of tyranny, putting into the shade its hostile policy, and totally rejected it," the ministry said.

"This deprived the DPRK of any justification to participate in the six-party talks," it said.

North Korea had sought a conciliatory gesture from the United States with the inauguration of Bush for his second term and the appointment of Rice as new secretary of state, analysts said.

However, the foreign ministry stressed the nuclear arsenal was purely defensive and Pyongyang still wanted to use dialogue to rid the Korean peninsula of atomic weapons, KCNA said.

But it said it saw no compelling reason to return to the six-way talks amid bellicose signs from the second Bush administration.

"We have wanted the six-party talks but we are compelled to suspend our participation in the talks for an indefinite period till we have recognized that there is justification for us to attend the talks," the Foreign Ministry said, adding it would wait for conditions conducive to positive results.

Washington has recently stepped up efforts to revive the six-party talks, sending an envoy to the region last week with letters for Chinese President Hu Jintao, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia have held three rounds of talks with North Korea since August 2003 and have been trying to coax Pyongyang back to the negotiations.

The latest crisis over the North's nuclear ambitions erupted in October 2002 when the United States said North Korea had acknowledged it had a secret program based on highly enriched uranium as well as a plutonium scheme that it had put on hold.

Pyongyang later denied having a uranium project. Koizumi responded swiftly. *Reuters*

SOUTH Korean Army soldiers patrol along the barbed-wire fence at the Imjingak Pavilion, near the demilitarized zone at Panmunjom which separates South Korea from the North. AP

Timeline of Pyongyang's nuke bid

- **DECEMBER 2001:** US President George W. Bush warns Iraq and North Korea they would be "held accountable" if they develop weapons of mass destruction.
- **Jan. 29, 2002:** Bush labels North Korea, Iran and Iraq an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union address.
- **Oct. 16:** US officials say North Korea admits having a secret uranium enrichment program, key to development of nuclear weapons.
- **Nov. 11:** The US and its key Asian allies—Japan and South Korea—decide to halt oil supplies to North Korea promised under a 1994 deal.
- **Dec. 12:** North Korea announces it is reactivating nuclear facilities at Yongbyon that were frozen under the 1994 deal with the United States.
- **Jan. 10, 2003:** North Korea says it will withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.
- **Feb. 6:** North Korea says it has reactivated its nuclear facilities.
- **April 23:** US and North Korean envoys begin talks in Beijing to try to resolve standoff.
- **April 24:** North Korea tells US officials privately that it has nuclear weapons and may test, export or use them depending on US actions, according a senior American official. The North reportedly offers to give up its nuclear program in return for large amounts of aid.
- **May 12:** North Korea withdraws from a 1992 agreement with South Korea to keep the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons.
- **Aug. 27-29:** North Korea joins the first round of six-nation talks on its nuclear program in Beijing, which include China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States.
- **Feb. 25-28, 2004:** Second round of six-nation talks.
- **June 23-26:** Third round of six-nation talks.
- **September:** North Korea refuses to attend a planned fourth round of six-party talks, accusing the United States of "hostile" policies toward it.
- **Jan. 18, 2005:** US Secretary of State designate Condoleezza Rice refers to North Korea as one of the "outposts of tyranny" in the world requiring close attention.
- **Feb. 2:** Bush softens his tone on North Korea, making only one reference to it in his State of the Union address: "We are working closely with governments in Asia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions."
- **Feb. 10:** North Korea announces in a foreign ministry statement that it has nuclear weapons, says it is staying away from six-nation talks on ending the crisis.

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Car bomb blast ushers in Islamic new year in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A car bomb exploded behind a US military patrol in central Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least two people, as Iraqi authorities delayed announcing the results of the country's historic election.

Insurgents struck as Iraqis marked the new Islamic year and as the US military announced plans to start bringing home the extra troops sent to Iraq to guard voting stations.

The US patrol had just passed a four wheel drive car in Tahrir square when it exploded, destroying three nearby cars but leaving the US patrol unscathed, witnesses said. Two people were killed and six injured, according to officials.

Another Iraqi civilian was killed in the city of Baquba in the so-called Sunni Triangle during a gunfight between police and rebels.

A mounting rebel campaign has cast a shadow over the euphoria from the Iraqi election. Scores of police and army have been killed since the Jan. 30 poll while politicians and journalists have been targeted for drive by shootings.

But authorities said the final results of the elections were being delayed for recounts.

The results had been expected on Thursday but the Iraqi election commission said this had to be put back because votes in 300 ballot boxes were being recounted.

"The checking of the votes is going on and the result will be known in a few days," commission official Farid Ayar said on Wednesday.

With just over half the estimated vote of about eight million announced, the main Shiite coalition, the United Iraqi Alliance, is leading the race, followed by a Kurdish coalition.

The United Iraqi Alliance now expects to secure an overall majority in the new 275-member national assembly that will draw up a new constitution.

A US general announced that moves were underway to reduce troop numbers from the election peak.

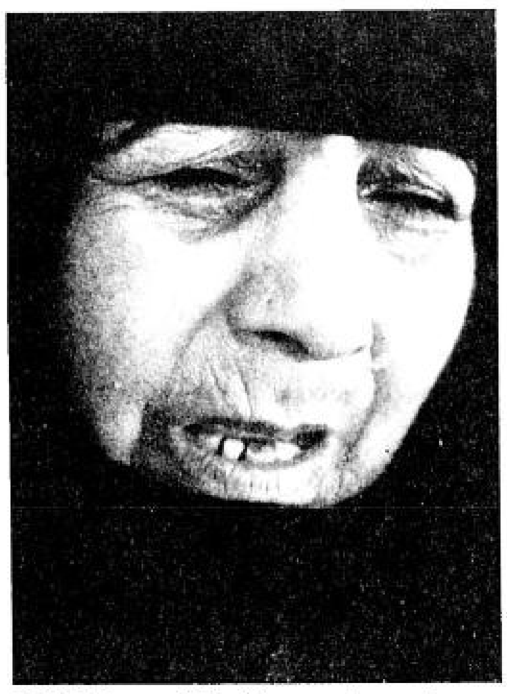
Lt. Gen. Lance Smith said in Washington that between 19,000 and 32,000 US troops would leave in coming weeks bringing the total down to 135,000-140,000.

US officials at a Nato meeting in Brussels said at least half a dozen alliance nations have offered help for Iraqi security forces.

Nato Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said ministers had agreed the 26-member grouping had "turned a corner" on Iraq since the elections.

A senior US state department official said six or seven Nato countries offered Wednesday to help train Iraqi security forces to combat insurgents.

Another half dozen said they were considering making a contribution, either through training or funds. *AFP*



AUNT of a man killed by an early morning car bomb in Tahrir square in central Baghdad, grieves over his body in the al-Kindi hospital in central Baghdad, Iraq Feb. 10. AP

Bomb seen likely cause of UK plane crash in Iraq

LONDON—The crash of a British military transport plane in Iraq occurred after the loss of its entire right wing and investigators believe a bomb planted by insurgents was the most "likely cause," the Sun newspaper reported Thursday.

The Sun reported that the entire right wing of the C-130 Hercules plane was torn off, sending the plane instantly into a violent spin and causing it to break up in about four seconds but not before the pilot hit the mayday button.

What was left of the plane spiraled and somersaulted into desolate marshland 30 km northwest of Baghdad, the mass-circulation daily said.

"A bomb now looks the most likely cause" of the Jan. 30 crash, a senior Royal Air Force source was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

"But sabotage is a another distinct possibility. Metal fatigue is another option but is considered much less likely. The suggestion that the plane was hit by a missile is a virtual non-starter," the source said.

Exploding ammunition or a missile would probably not have caused the wing to sheer off, and the plane was probably out of missile range, they added.

A Ministry of Defense spokesperson refused to comment on the report. "We don't speculate when the findings of a board of inquiry have yet to be concluded," the spokesman said.

The bodies of the nine Royal Air Force aircrew and one soldier were flown into RAF Lyneham air base in southwest England on Tuesday. It was Britain's largest single-day loss of life since it helped launch the Iraq war in March 2003.

Meanwhile a senior US general said he believes the crash was due to an attack rather than a technical problem.

Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, deputy commander of the US Central Command in Iraq, emphasized that it was his personal impression, and not the result of the ongoing enquiry. *AFP*

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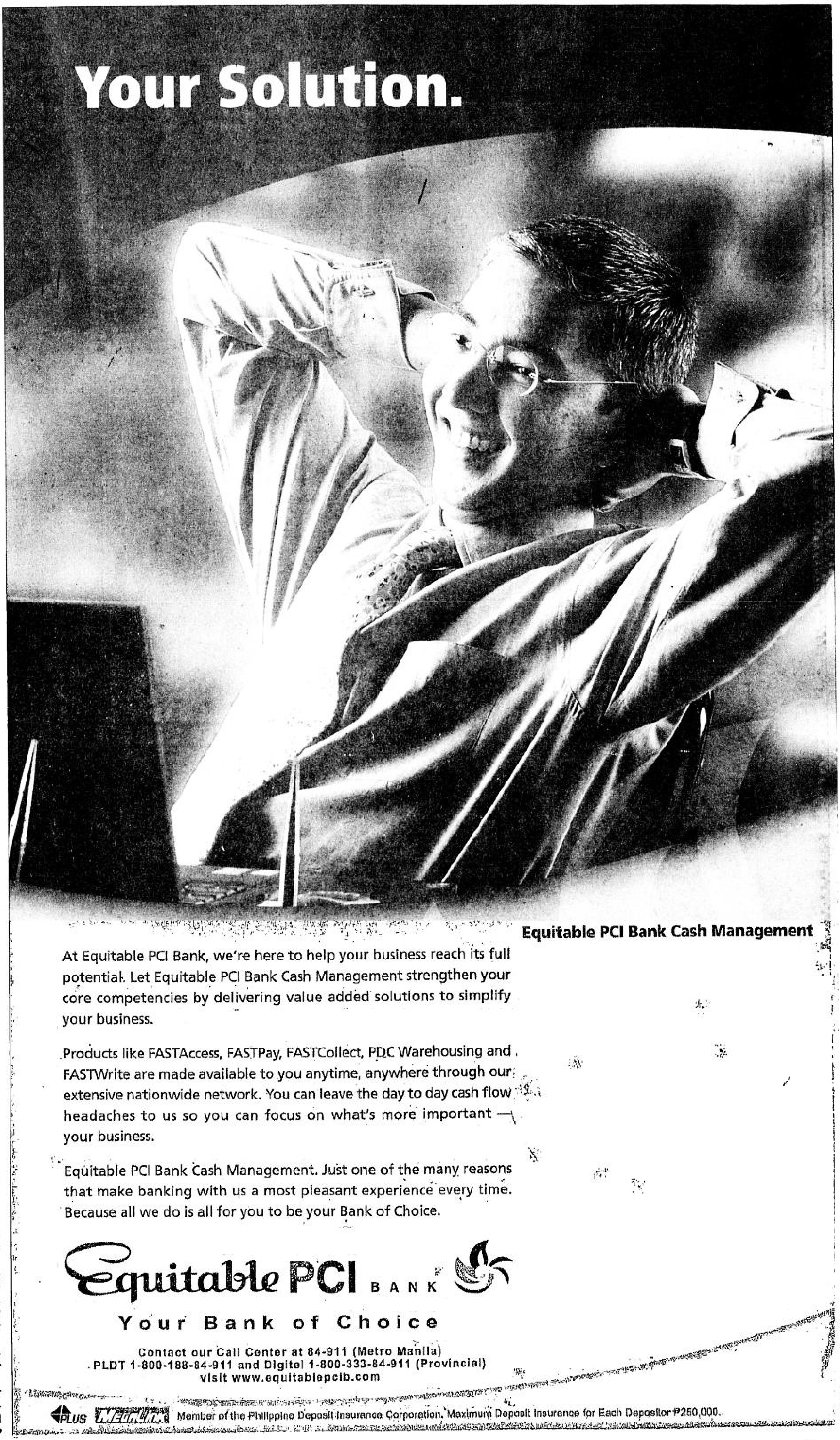

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US intel on Iran nuke program seen as meager

WASHINGTON—US intelligence is unlikely to know much about Iran's contentious nuclear program and could be vulnerable to manipulation for political ends, former intelligence officers and other experts say.

Amid an escalating war of words between Washington and Tehran, the experts say they doubt the CIA has been able to recruit agents with access to the small circle of clerics who control the Islamic Republic's national security policy.

Serious doubts also surround the effectiveness of an expanded intelligence role for the Pentagon, which former intelligence officials say is preparing covert military forays to look for evidence near suspected weapons facilities.

"I will be highly remarkably surprised if the United States has (intelligence) assets in the organs of power," said Ray Takeyh, an Iran expert at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"They don't even know who the second-tier Revolutionary Guards are," he added.

Doubts about US intelligence on Iran have arisen amid talk of possible military strikes by the United States or Israel against suspected nuclear weapons facilities.

Former chief weapons inspector David Kay, the first to declare US intelligence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq a failure, warned that the Bush administration is again relying on evidence from dissidents, as it did in prewar Iraq.

"The tendency is to force the intelligence to support the political argument," Kay said in a CNN interview on Wednesday.

He added that the CIA has yet to give US policymakers an up-to-date comprehensive intelligence assessment on Iran.

"We're talking about military action against Iran and we don't have a national intelligence estimate that shows what we do know, what we don't know and the basis for what we think we know," Kay said.

Problems arose for US intelligence in Iran a quarter of a century ago after the Islamic revolution, when Washington cut diplomatic ties following the seizure of the American Embassy by student radicals.

Richard Perle, the influential neoconservative thinker who was a driving force behind the US-led invasion of Iraq, said intelligence suffered a major setback in Iran with the arrest of about 40 agents in the mid-1990s.

"As I understand it, virtually our entire network in Iran was wiped out," Perle recently told the House of Representatives intelligence committee.

"I think we're in very bad shape in Iran," he said.

Some intelligence analysts argue a preemptive strike is the only way to delay Iranian nuclear-weapons production, despite the Bush administration's public emphasis on diplomacy.

Tehran denies US charges that it is seeking nuclear weapons and has warned that a US or Israeli strike would only accelerate its legal uranium enrichment activities.

US intelligence has had a huge credibility problem over reports that prewar Iraq possessed large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and was pursuing nuclear arms.

The assertions were a main justification for the 2003 US invasion, but no such weapons have been found.

"If US intelligence was bad in Iraq, and it was atrocious, it's probably going to be worse vis-a-vis Iran," said Richard Russell, a former CIA analyst who teaches at the National Defense University.

The task of recruiting useful agents in Iran faces immense hurdles posed by a secretive decision-making hierarchy and widespread mistrust of the US government, experts said. *Reuters*

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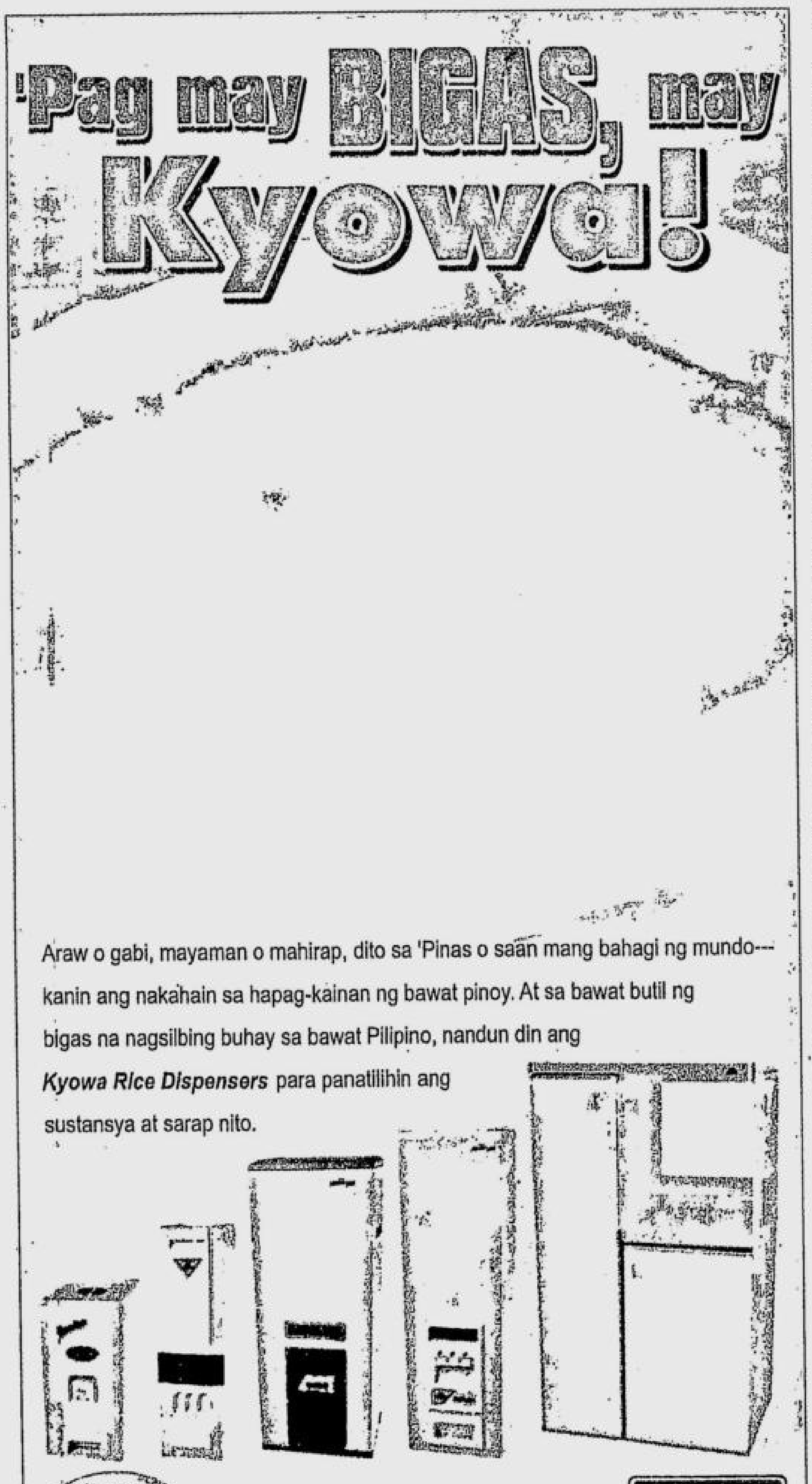
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Watchdog to tag IRA for $50-M bank robbery

BELFAST—The Irish Republican Army's political ally Sinn Fein could be facing sanctions on Thursday when Northern Ireland's ceasefire watchdog publishes a report on a massive bank robbery blamed on the guerrilla group.

A special report from the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) is widely expected to say the IRA was behind a £26.5 million ($50 million) robbery at the headquarters of Northern Bank which has provoked a political crisis in Belfast.

The IMC—set up by Britain and Ireland to rule on whether rival paramilitary groups are sticking to peace pledges—can recommend punishments against political parties linked to organizations it deems guilty of ceasefire transgressions.

Sinn Fein, the largest Catholic party in Northern Ireland, was fined by Britain after the IMC's first report in April last year recommended financial sanctions over alleged IRA activity.

The watchdog, whose four members are nominated by London, Dublin and Washington, also warned it might name leading Sinn Fein figures it believed were also senior members of the IRA.

Any action against Sinn Fein is certain to further sour an already rancorous political atmosphere, and Britain may delay announcing what action it will take.

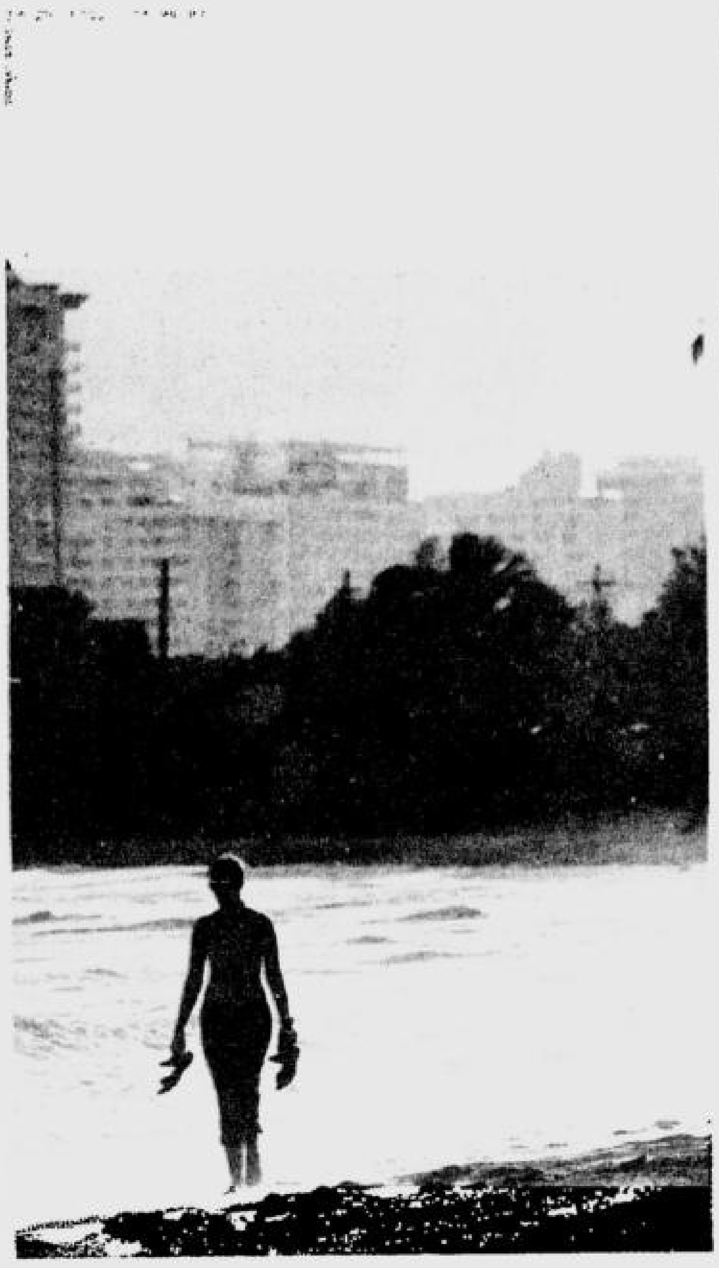
"I don't think we are going to rush into making a response," said one British source.

The fallout from the December 20 raid has dealt a huge blow to Anglo-Irish efforts to hand the running of the British-ruled province back to its divided Protestant and Catholic parties.

Protestant unionists—who support the union with Britain—are refusing to share power with Sinn Fein until the IRA disbands, and London and Dublin have accused the IRA of blocking progress by clinging to paramilitarism and criminality.

Last week the IRA responded to the criticism being heaped on it by withdrawing a conditional offer to disarm—made during aborted negotiations late last year—and accused Britain and Ireland of "making a mess of the peace process."

Although the violence which claimed more than 3,600 lives in Northern Ireland over 30 years has largely stopped, politics has been deadlocked since 2002 when a regional government set up to share power between the two communities broke down. *Reuters*



ALONE WITH THE WIND AND SAND
A woman takes a morning walk in Ocean Park Beach in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dec. 28, 2004. AP

Basque separatist bomb blast hurts 42 in Madrid

MADRID—A car bombing claimed by the Basque separatists ETA injured at least 42 people in a Madrid business park on Wednesday, hours before King Juan Carlos was due to visit the area, the interior ministry said.

The blast, which dealt a fresh blow to efforts to defuse ETA's four-decade campaign for Basque independence, came as 14 people suspected of belonging to the banned organization were arrested in a major antiterrorist sweep.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero condemned the "terrorist" attack, which took place at 9:35 a.m. and sent black smoke billowing into the sky, 30 minutes after an anonymous caller claiming to represent ETA alerted the Basque newspaper Gara, police said.

The car, stolen a few hours earlier, was parked outside the Spanish headquarters of the French computing company Bull, and the blast shattered the building's windows over five stories, an interior ministry spokesperson said.

Despite the telephone alert, police did not have time to order an evacuation although they managed to cordon off the area before the explosion, according to the regional governor of Madrid, Constantino Mendez.

Twenty-four of the injured were inside the Bull offices. Most of them suffered cuts from broken glass, others damaged eardrums. *AFP*

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Prince Charles to marry longtime lover Camilla

PRINCE Charles and Camilla

LONDON—Prince Charles surprised Britain by announcing Thursday that he will marry Camilla Parker Bowles, his longtime lover whom Princess Diana blamed for the breakdown of her marriage to the heir to the throne.

Clarence House, Charles' office, announced that the pair would marry but gave no further details. Sky News TV reported that the wedding would take place on April 6.

Charles divorced from Diana in 1996, a year before she was killed in a Paris car crash. Camilla obtained her divorce from army officer Andrew Parker Bowles in 1995.

Charles, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, first met Camilla at a polo match in Windsor in 1970 and over the next few years they became very close. The relationship cooled after Charles joined the Royal Navy and Camilla married Andrew Parker Bowles, a longstanding admirer.

Throughout the late 1970s Charles and Camilla kept up contact and became close friends again toward the end of the decade. They remained so after Charles' 1981 marriage to Diana.

Diana blamed the friendship for the failure of her marriage to the Prince of Wales. "There were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded," Diana said in a 1995 TV interview.

In 1994, Prince Charles admitted in a TV documentary that he had strayed from his marriage vows, but insisted the infidelity happened only after the marriage was "irretrievably broken down, us both having tried." It was widely assumed, but never confirmed, that Camilla was the other woman.

Camilla soon became a recognizable figure and in April 1997 took a tentative step into public life when she became patron of the National Osteoporosis Society. An official photograph was released to mark the occasion. In July that year, Charles hosted a party for Camilla to celebrate her 50th birthday.

The couple appeared less frequently in public after Diana's death in August 1997, but in 1999 Camilla met Charles' sons Prince William and Prince Harry for the first time.

In recent years, she has regularly accompanied Charles to galas and become accustomed to appearing in front of the media. She now lives with Charles at his Clarence House residence in central London.

Their planned marriage is nevertheless a sensitive issue because Parker Bowles is divorced and her former husband is still alive. Charles would be the supreme governor of the Church of England if he took the throne, and some Anglicans remain opposed to remarriage of divorcees.

The church is officially neutral on the issue, but former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey recently urged the couple to marry. *AP*

BBC woman journalist shot dead in Somalia

NAIROBI—Britain, Somali officials and a press freedom watchdog expressed shock and indignation on Thursday at the fatal shooting of a British journalist in the lawless Somali capital Mogadishu on Wednesday.

Kate Peyton, a 39-year-old BBC producer, died while undergoing surgery at Mogadishu's Medina hospital after she was gunned down by unknown attackers outside a hotel, just hours after arriving in the bullet-scarred city.

Britain's Foreign Office said it was "shocked and saddened" by Peyton's death and offered condolences to her friends and family, noting that she had traveled often with Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

"She will be greatly missed," a Foreign Office spokesperson told Britain's domestic news agency, the Press Association.

Peyton was in Mogadishu to join foreign reporters covering a fact-finding visit to the capital by a team of Somali lawmakers assessing conditions there for the relocation from exile in Kenya of the nation's transitional government.

Transitional Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi, who has announced the government would begin to relocate to Somalia on Feb. 21, described the killing as a "savage act."

"I was saddened by the killing of the innocent journalist," he said by telephone from Nairobi. "Those behind the killing will be punished. Local authorities are instructed to investigate the matter."

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) condemned what it termed a "reprehensible attack" and called on the transitional government to fully investigate the killing and prosecute the perpetrators.

"We mourn the loss of our colleague Kate Peyton and condemn this reprehensible attack on an innocent person who was trying to report on an important international issue," it said in a statement received here.

"We call on authorities and the newly elected federal government to ensure that Peyton's killers are swiftly found and brought to justice," CPJ's Executive Director Ann Cooper said.

Peyton was shot by unknown gunmen outside her hotel in Mogadishu on Wednesday, according to police and medical officials.

Witnesses said the gunmen, who sped off in a white saloon car, targeted her about 20 meters from the Sahafi (Arabic for journalist) Hotel in southern Mogadishu. *AFP*

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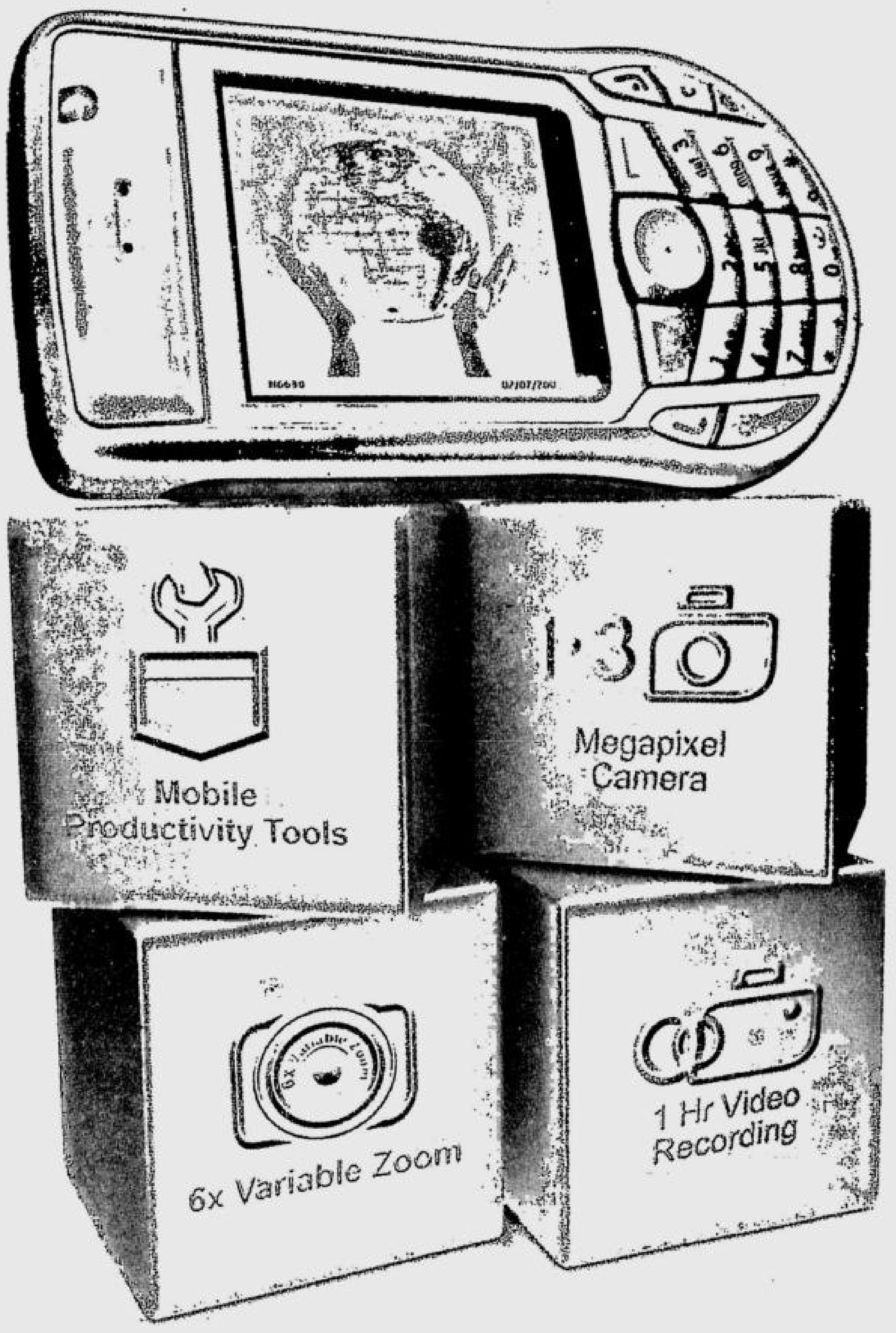

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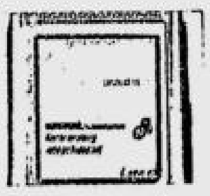

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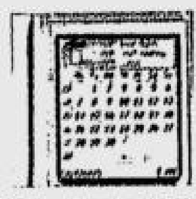

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OPINION

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Strange bedfellows

EDITORIAL

WITHOUT realizing it, the Marcos family and human rights victims have become strange bedfellows. In the wake of the decision of a United States court upholding in effect the Philippine Supreme Court order forfeiting $683 million of Marcos assets from Swiss accounts in favor of the government, both the Marcos family and the human rights victims, who are demanding the $683 million be used to indemnify their claims, have called on the government to make the payments.

Through his lawyer, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has said that he supports the class action suit of the rights victims, but stressed that he's not legally obligated to pay his father's debt. "The Philippine government is responsible for providing the money," he said, denying that the Marcoses have the personal assets to satisfy the claims.

The denial, of course, is weak. The Marcoses, their relatives and their cronies have continued to live in utter luxury. For them to live more modestly would violate the Imeldific philosophy.

The human rights victims do not believe the Marcoses either. But they agree that the government should pay them. The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), which supports the cause of the rights victims, said the government must recognize the victims through a presidential proclamation, declare them as heroes, and compensate them with money either from the Marcos accounts or the national budget.

We don't know what "national budget" the rights victims are talking about, but if they are talking about the Swiss accounts that were turned over to the Philippines, the amount remains unprogrammed and unappropriated. And it would remain so until all litigation concerning conflicting claims stops. It should likewise be remembered that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law mandates that all recovered Marcos assets should go to finance the program. For the government to use the Marcos deposits to indemnify the rights victims would require a legislative amendment.

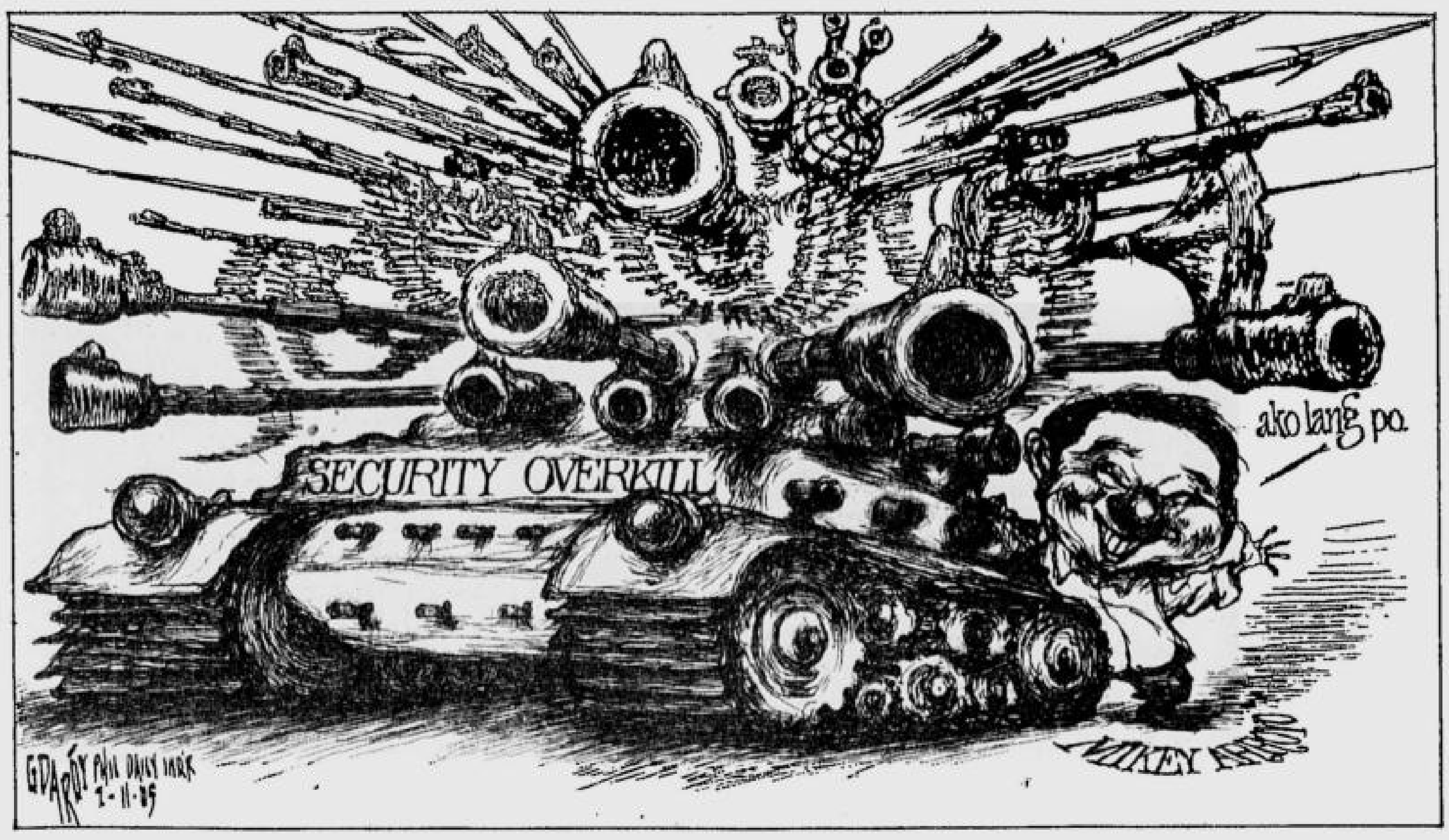
It is worrisome that the rights victims and the Marcos family are now pressuring the government for compensation when there's not enough discussion on the implications of such a move. Although the Arroyo administration has put it on record that it has set aside a portion of the Marcos accounts for indemnity, it hardly seems to have thought out the ramifications of indemnity.

Why should human rights victims be compensated by money that comes from the Filipinos, stolen from them by the grand larceny of the Marcos regime? The TFDP head herself said that the Philippine government should apologize to the victims of martial law because it "allowed itself to be used for fascist repression and economic plunder." Surely she knows that the Marcos assets are money plundered from the people. If so, why should stolen money be used to pay Marcos' victims? Why not let the Marcoses pay the victims?

In the same way, why should the national budget be used to compensate the victims? The budget is drawn from the taxes paid by Filipinos, and even if most of it came from domestic and international borrowings, the borrowings still constitute a sovereign debt that the Filipinos must pay for. To use the budget to indemnify the victims would be tantamount to saying that the Filipino taxpayers themselves perpetrated the abuses. It would be as ridiculous as shooting one's foot and making the other foot pay for the damage.

The word "compensation" seems to leave a bad taste in the mouth. Why should those who were persecuted and tortured during martial law be paid? Wouldn't that trivialize the ordeal they suffered? Wouldn't it be better to use the Marcos accounts for a humanitarian program that would provide assistance to the victims and their kin and friends, ease their trauma and sufferings, hasten their rehabilitation, and generally foster a spirit of reconciliation with history and all its flaws and depredations?

To be sure, all Filipinos suffered during the Marcos regime, and they deserve relief and indemnity. But unlike the Jews victimized by the Nazi genocide, and even the Filipinos victimized by Japanese atrocities during World War II, Filipinos cannot be "compensated" for their sufferings with money that had been plundered by Marcos. Filipinos cannot indemnify themselves with money they themselves own. Compensation given in such a manner is no relief or indemnity. It's an insult.



Love songs at Front Page on V Day

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST Feb. 2, this column asked questions on the controversial bidding for Napocor's Masinloc power plant. The winning bidder was YNN, whose capitalization has been confirmed to be only P1 million. Its winning bid was P564 million.

This week, my good friend Elpi Cuna, vice president for corporate communications of Meralco, faxed answers to those questions point by point. In fairness to Meralco, I am quoting those answers.

Elpi denied insinuations that Meralco is close to the bidders for the Masinloc plant, particularly YNN. He said:

"1. Meralco has no business relationship with YNN. You mentioned YNN owner Sunny Sun as a retired Meralco executive and a close associate of our president. For the record, Mr. Sun was never an employee much less an executive of Meralco. His company (Duracom Corp.) used to bid for our annual electric wires needs, representing an established manufacturer, Columbia Wires and Cables. Based on our records, the last award (P1,392,000) to him was in July 2000. In 1993, he was the president of a small genco, Duracom Mobile Power Corp. which signed an agreement with Meralco as a dispatchable IPP. Naturally, Mr. Sun is known to our executives. This company has since been acquired and is now a subsidiary of East Asia Power Resources Corp. Its new president and CEO is Mr. Anthony Shibley."

2. Elpi also stated that there are no ongoing negotiations with YNN insofar as a power supply contract is concerned. "To link Meralco with the government getting a better price had it bid for Masinloc with a long-term power sales agreement, which Meralco refused to enter with Napocor, is unfair and totally false. There is no legal point to stand on and I also do not see the connection between the bidding of government's power plants with Meralco power supply contracts. Our power supply agreements with our suppliers is based solely on the best price we obtain, which will eventually redound to the benefit of our customers. That is our primordial consideration."

"3. You also asked if YNN and Great Pacific would have bid such a higher price.if they were not assured of landing a power supply contract with Meralco and (added) that there is no assurance that the public will not be charged a higher generation rate when Meralco and YNN negotiate for a power supply contract.

"For the record, Meralco had absolutely nothing to do with the bidding for Masinloc. Again let me emphasize that to drag Meralco into this controversy is totally unfair... Let me reiterate for the record that we have no ongoing negotiations with YNN and Great Pacific so to assume that YNN and Great Pacific are going to land a power supply contract with Meralco is totally false.

"4. You said that Meralco should start showing a heart for the consuming public as a public utility company should. You averred that Meralco negotiated a bloated P5 per kilowatt-hour rate with Quezon Power coal plant similar to Masinloc at the time they could buy power from Napocor at only P3 per kilowatt-hour.

"We have time and again stated that comparing the cost of Napocor's rate with Quezon Power or our other IPPs is unfair. The rate of Napocor is 'artificially low.' Further, as we have repeatedly emphasized, our IPPs have not been dispatched at contract levels resulting in a higher rate per kWh. It is the consumer as taxpayer who ultimately pays for the difference between the artificial Napocor rate and the true cost of power. The latest Napocor increase of 98 centavos per kWh nationwide and P1.28 per kWh in the Luzon grid validates this fact. In fact, they have a pending petition to hike their rates again this year. On the other hand, if our IPPs have been dispatched at contract levels, it would have resulted in 42 centavos per kWh savings to Meralco consumers.

"5. Lastly, it is also not true that we have a negotiated power supply contract with a 1200 MW natural gas power project in Bataan.

"It is very unfortunate that some sectors are really intent on sowing disinformation about Meralco. These may be sectors that are intent on seeing the Masinloc privatization fail in order to advance their own interests. It is so sad that they have to resort to this type of propaganda to achieve their ends."

Now that we have read Meralco's side, I would like to ask one last question: There are only two bidders, YNN and First Gas. The latter's bid is P288 million, below the minimum bid price of P380 million. Therefore, there is only one qualified bidder, YNN. If so, is it not a failed bidding?

* * *

This Monday, the Valentine's Day offering of Front Page piano bar is an after-dinner concert of love songs by singing stars Girl Valencia, Marri Nallos, Juan Rodrigo, the telenovela pioneer-turned singer, and the surprise special participation of a pop icon. Front Page is on T.M. Kalaw Street, Manila, opposite the National Library.

Admission is free. Pay only for your drinks.

The painting and sculpture exhibits of Malang and Julie Lluch, respectively, are still ongoing at Samahang Plaridel's art gallery and clubhouse on the third floor. Journalist-members can now play billiards and have free coffee at the clubhouse, listen to fine music, watch TV, write their stories on computers, read the quality newspapers and magazines in Metro Manila, shoot darts, and play chess, cards, liars' dice, dominoes, checkers, scrabble, etc.

* * *

Kapihan Notes: Monday being Valentine's Day when most people will be preoccupied with making their valentines happy, there will be no Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel). The next Kapihan will be on Feb. 21.

History's cruelty to forgotten heroes

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

FOR the martial law torture victims, the unkindest cut of all is in being misunderstood.

They had risked their lives, the security of their families, and future of their children. They had acted with the purest of hearts, in those dark days when being a freedom-fighter promised no reward save the joy of living by one's conscience. And now they are portrayed as having cheapened their cause, desperate and money-hungry, eager to get their hands on the booty declared by the Supreme Court as having been looted from the public coffers.

Could they have imagined that they would now be fighting a "protracted struggle" not in the countryside but in the courtrooms? Most painful still is that their most recent setback in US courts has been seen as a triumph of Philippine sovereignty, the flag for which they endured macabre ordeals, the very flag whose courts have not given them justice. Why this tragic twist of fate?

There are two separate lines of cases. The first is the claim before a Honolulu court filed by 9,500 human rights victims against the Marcos estate. The litigation was based on a leading 1980 US case, Filartiga v. Peña Irala, wherein a US court cited the Alien Tort Claims Act, a 1789 law which empowered American courts to try human rights violations committed abroad, even when both the torturer and the victim are foreign nationals (or in legalese, without any jurisdictional link to the forum). The Filipino claimants won a $2-billion award for compensation. That judgment stands. It remains undisturbed.

The second line of cases addresses the question of who owns the funds recovered from Swiss banks. The Philippine Supreme Court has declared that all the ill-gotten wealth "supposedly originated from the government itself [and to] all intents and purposes they belong to the people [and] must be returned to the public treasury." To complicate things further, these funds, once recovered, are earmarked by Philippine law exclusively for agrarian reform (again, the irony that the fallen warriors of a peasant-based revolution are now made to scramble with actual peasants for the loot). By virtue of this ruling, some $683 million found in Swiss bank accounts was transferred to the Philippine government.

But the human rights claimants had hoped to collect their compensation from that same fund, and that is why, in order to stop them, the Philippine government petitioned a higher court in California to ensure respect for our SC decision that the amounts in question belonged to the Philippine government, and not to the Marcos estate. The rebuff pertains solely to how the human rights claimants can enforce the award of compensation, and it does not spell the end for the saga of the martial law victims.

The usual option is what lawyers call "recognition and enforcement of a foreign judgment," to be filed before local courts by the victorious Honolulu claimants. They seem to have abandoned that option, either because the filing fees alone for a $2 billion award is astronomical, or because even here they would have to hunt down the Marcos assets, or because they have lost hope in our courts. The next option is indicated in public statements by the Honolulu counsels, who suggest that they have found other bank accounts against which they can enforce the award.

Finally, on the home front, there are pending bills in both the House (filed by Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales of Akbayan) and the Senate (filed by Sen. Joker Arroyo) to set aside a fund to compensate the victims. Senator Arroyo already expressed concern that the P11 billion compensation fund is subject of a P3 billion *kupit* by government. There has also been opposition to a feature of the bill requiring all claimants to go through a board that will ascertain the suffering and the amounts due. Post-1986 victims further ask why the bill is limited only to martial law-era victims. Finally, both peasant groups and the Department of Agrarian Reform have asked if all that money will be taken away from the land-to-the-peasant program.

The real tragedy is that almost 20 years after Edsa 1, we have had no closure on our martial law years. South Africa, El Salvador, Argentina—they all have had some form of a Truth Commission that confronted the national ordeal they had just endured. We chose to look the other way and said that it was better to forget the past and move onward. We did forget the past, but we did not move forward, and as a result, we continue to be haunted by nightmares we thought we could suppress.

For the human rights victims, what they lose as time erodes memories is the public vindication of their heroism. The latest bout in the California court was merely a legal setback. The real setback that has demeaned the cause of the human rights victims are nefarious practices by their comrades, who collect permits-to-campaign from politicians and have been implicated in the widely documented "killing fields" when the Philippines' crimson revolution began to devour its own children.

When revolutionaries file suit before courts in a foreign land to recover cash awards for their sufferings, the danger is that the medium transforms the message. They sought to send a moral message through the courts, which find it meaningless to speak of moral wrongs unless these were accompanied by monetary rights—and, as we have seen, the moral force of a court judgment is eroded as hopes for the monetary award slip away.

I write to honor a fraternity brother, William Acuña Begg. He had gone underground by the time I joined the fraternity, and I later learned of his death in Isabela, an offering to the people undiminished by neither time nor fate.

Opposition remains in disarray

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SEVEN months after the election, the opposition continues to be plagued by disunity; and this is unfortunate for the building of a strong party system. As the administration consolidates its position, the opposition should by this time have closed ranks behind a leader and an alternative agenda to the administration's 10-point program, which can be punctured full of holes by a united opposition.

The bad news is that the opposition ranks are in a cannibalistic mood, and are roiled by plots to devour their own members. The latest of these plots is directed at expelling Sen. Edgardo Angara as head of the largest opposition party, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP). A leadership fight inside the opposition is something it does not need at this time. The administration would like nothing better than an opposition destroying itself in intramurals.

The continuing disarray in the opposition stems from a fundamental issue: the flawed selection process that decided to adopt the late Fernando Poe Jr. as presidential candidate of the opposition in the 2004 election. Although the selection of Poe was expected to unite the opposition, it had an opposite effect. It deepened the conflict between Angara, who sponsored Poe's candidacy, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a member of the LDP, who refused to abide by the party decision to adopt Poe as the opposition presidential standard-bearer, and insisted on running for president.

The irony is that although Poe was thought to be a unifying element of the opposition, his candidacy did not only fuel disunity but also left an enduring legacy of rift after the election and even after his untimely death last December.

The flaw in the selection process stemmed from Angara's attempt to replicate the American primary pre-selection format by introducing the road show to gather grass-roots feedback from local party members. The problem with that process is that it tried to emulate the American primary elections as a democratic pre-selection mechanism, leading to the two-party presidential nomination conventions.

For all his good intentions of institutionalizing the pre-selection process, Angara's political experiment was conducted in an electoral system that has no experience with the primaries that are so successful and democratic in the American elections. Without such a culture and without a two-party system, the experiment had no chance of working in an electoral contest in which the 1987 post-Marcos democratic Constitution explicitly encourages the development of a multi-party system.

The result was that the selection of Poe as the opposition candidate was perceived by Lacson and his allies in the LDP, particularly Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, to be a conclusion dictated by party leaders from above and not reflecting the opinion from below.

The defeat of Poe, which was blamed by Angara's allies on Lacson's refusal to step down in favor of Poe, thereby splitting the total opposition votes, has not caused the opposition to close ranks.

The move to exclude Angara from the fresh unification efforts has been further complicated by reports that former President Joseph Estrada is involved in the move (although Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, has said his father was trying to patch up differences between Angara and Lacson to present a unified opposition façade).

Easing Angara out of the LDP defies the odds. His foes inside the LDP don't appear to have enough number to vote him out.

Lacson and Aquino contend that Angara does not represent the opposition's independent role to keep the administration's nose clean in view of his collaborative stance in some of the administration's programs, including his vote in the Senate on the administration's tax measures, among them, the increases in the value-added tax and the "sin" tax on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks. Angara has said his cooperation with the administration is based on the sense from "my colleagues in the LDP that they want us to be in the middle, moderate, independent of any entanglement or alignments so that we can choose proposals we would support."

Angara has held the LDP together through three presidential elections since 1992. The LDP served as the machinery of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, the token coalition under which Joseph Estrada ran for president in 1998. It again served as the nucleus of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino under which Poe ran for president in 2004. After Poe's defeat, the KNP disbanded.

The worst thing that the opposition can do is to demolish its party structure upon which it can build its alternative policies and programs to those of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and work toward winning the next presidential election.

The opposition should by now have not only a credible leader but more so a common position on the administration's tax reform package. Opposition lawmakers have tended to vote on each measure individually rather than expressing a party position.

Lacking a coherent approach and leadership, opposition members have diverted their effort toward a sporadic search of scandals and of headline grabbing issues such as grounds for the impeachment of the President.

This not to say that the opposition should close its eyes to scandals, corruption cases and constitutional violations, but calls for impeachment action require serious marshalling of evidence to set the process in motion in Congress. Uncovering wrongdoing is the opposition's task.

There is enough work, however, for the opposition to do in checking the administration on the issues of the measures designed to wipe out the fiscal deficit. Scrutinizing the tax reform agenda deserves the highest priority and the immediate attention of the opposition.

Pioneering women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ABOUT 30 years ago, soon after "women's lib" made the jump from the United States and the West to the developing world, misogynists and various critics lost no time getting on the feminists' case.

Feminism, they said, had no place in Philippine society because it was a "mere" import from the West (like representative democracy?) and was an ill-fit with local mores and traditions. Even more damning was the assertion made by leaders of the leftist and so-called "progressive" movement that women's agitation for their rights and share of power was "distracting," if not derailing, the revolutionary drive for national liberation. If I remember right, some did promise that once progressive forces "won" the revolution, they would have all the time and leisure to begin listening to women. (As an aside, don't you wonder what would have happened to the women's movement if the women had believed such drivel? We would no doubt still be confined to making sandwiches for rallies and stroking the egos of the male "revolutionaries.")

So it must come as a distinct shock to these critics and the rest of the nation to find out that this year the country is observing the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines. Yes, feminism—or at least its formal, organized expression—is already a hundred years old in the country!

* * *

AS a backgrounder states, "One hundred years ago, while the dust of the Filipino-American War had not yet settled, a group of nationalist women formed the first non-government organization (NGO) in the Philippines, with the vision of taking care of the women and children who were left malnourished and ill by years of strife. Concepcion Felix, Trinidad Rizal and other prominent women (founded) Asociacion Feminista Filipina (Filipina Feminist Association) in 1905, signaling the beginning of the Feminist Movement in our country."

The first and most lasting project of Asociacion Feminista Filipina was Gota de Leche (or Drop of Milk), the first non-denominational private social welfare initiative in the country.

Beyond its charity work, though, Asociacion Feminista was instrumental in the "social transformation" of Filipino women. It's members played a key role (in conjunction with Asociacion Feminista Ilongga, founded a year later in Iloilo) in the struggle for women's right to vote and the passage of legislation for women's rights, and which has resulted "in the creation of perhaps Asia's most politically-informed and vibrant women's movement."

* * *

A COALITION of women from government and non-government groups, called the NGO-GO National Network of the Feminist Centennial will launch its year-long round of activities with a benefit dinner-concert, "100 Years of Hearts and Hands" on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the gardens of the Gota de Leche compound on Sergio Loyola Street in Sampaloc.

On this occasion, the NGO-GO National Network will give awards of recognition to "women and women's groups who nurtured the feminist movement over the last hundred years." Special recognition will be given to the founders of Asociacion Feminista: Concepcion Felix de Calderon y de Rodriguez and Pura Villanueva Kalaw. In addition, 17 women, who composed the early membership of feminist organizations, will be recognized. They are: Encarnacion Alzona, Librada Avelino, Natividad Almeda Lopez, Minerva Guysako Laudico (the lone surviving awardee), Pilar Hidalgo Lim, Josefa Jara Martinez, Tarhata Kiram, Trinidad Legarda, Josefa Llanes Escoda, Clemencia Lopez, Maria Paz Mendoza Guazon, Constancia Poblete, Paz Policarpio Mendez, Sofia Reyes de Veyra, Rosa Sevilla Alvero, Maria C. Manzano and Geronima Pecson.

Special tribute will also be given to four early "feminist men," who championed, in their writings and legislative work, the rights of women. They are: Apolinario Mabini, Rafael Palma and Assemblymen Filemon Sotto and Miguel Cuenco.

Eighteen pioneering organizations espousing feminist principles, including the rights and welfare of women, will likewise be recognized. These are (in order of founding): National Federation of Women's Clubs, YWCA, Philippine Association of University Women, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Sigma Delta Phi, Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines, aka NCWP, Zonta, Soroptimists, Kabapa, Pilipina, ISSA, Center for Women's Resources, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women (TW-MAE-TW), Stop Trafficking of Filipino Women (S.T.O.P.), Gabriela, Concerned Women of the Philippines, Women's Health Care Foundation, Women's Desk of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, and Women's Media Circle Foundation.

Pioneer institutions that promoted women's education will also be cited: Instituto de Mujeres, National Teachers College, Centro Escolar de Señoritas (now known as Centro Escolar University), and Philippine Women's University.

Descendants of the individual awardees and representatives of the awardee institutions are urged to contact the secretariat of the NGO-GO Network (Tel Nos. 735-9687 or 734-684, ask for Lily) as soon as possible.

* * *

DANCE enthusiasts are invited to come and watch "Dance Avenue" at the UP Theater tomorrow, Saturday, at 6 p.m., the second "back-to-back" concert of the Miriam College High School Pep Squad and "Sayawatha," the high school dance troupe.

My niece Crissy Tan-Cardoso, a member of the MCHS Pep Squad, managed to twist our arms to watch last year's performance and while we may have gone there out of a sense of family loyalty, we left the theater enthused and raving about the young dancers' abilities and the magnificent production values.

Tickets are at P60 and P120 each and should be available at the gate.

Resilience

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FR. Ted Gonzales, S.J. of the Center for Family Ministries (Cefam) at the Ateneo de Manila shares an inspiring story that happened at the Masses he said last Christmas for his clan in Pampanga. During the Mass, he talked about the center's newly launched project to support public libraries throughout the country. During the offertory, a hat was passed around and even his small nephews and nieces chipped in from their pockets. They would later tell him that they wanted poor children to be able to read and learn.

Volunteerism is definitely alive these days, among both the old and the young. As many have observed, it is the one good thing that has happened amid the tragedies that struck the nation and the Asian region toward the end of year 2004. At the same time, however, it is conceded that not only will volunteerism diminish as the sense of urgency fades away, it is also a weak alternative to long-lasting programs and solutions. On the wish-list of people for this new year, education and governance were identified as the areas that the country has to work on if it is to achieve economic recovery. Long-lasting programs and solutions will have to address these two areas.

Father Gonzales in his "small ways" has set his eyes on these two things. Not known within Jesuit circles as a rabid activist type, his social action work bloomed curiously enough through the academe. While finishing his doctorate in pastoral counseling at Loyola College in Maryland, he did a dissertation on "resilience," in particular on how Filipino wives bounce back in the face of spousal infidelity. Back in the Philippines and to his teaching job at Loyola School of Theology, he offered a course with the same title (resilience) but this time, widening its coverage to include the experience of other groups. The broader question then became: How do people bounce back from adversities?

He invited resource persons from business, the clergy, urban poor as well politics to talk about how they survived adversities in life and emerged successful. Outside of the classroom, he conducted 24 retreats last year in various social sectors, dubbed "One Family, One Dream." From these, he realized that although we seem divided, our aspirations in life are similar.

From his own research and from his classes and retreats, Father Gonzales shares what have surfaced as the ways or means by which people become resilient. The most important thing, he says, is a sense of meaning. Despite any adversity, people recover if they can still find some meaning in their lives amid their experience of darkness. In this regard, religion and spirituality or simply belief in a God who cares enabled people to withstand crises.

Corollary to this, he says, is a sense of faith in oneself. If people can still identify their internal resources, connect with their spirit or the God that dwells within them (the "Emmanuel"), they are able to bounce back.

Thirdly, work or activity no matter how simple or small, help them move on. Paralysis in the face of adversity only worsens the situation.

Finally, the support of family and friends enables people to survive adversities. The sense of unity or solidarity with others buoys the spirits of those in crisis.

Working on these inputs, Father Gonzales, through Cefam, has embarked on two "ambitious" projects still connected with his work on resilience. The first one is Basa, which stands for "Bayan Akayin Sa Abot-Tanaw." It is a campaign to strengthen the nation's public library system and promote a culture of reading, especially among the poor. Father Gonzales explains the objective of the program:

"Our objective is to build the nation by building imagination. When you can imagine, you can see possibilities. You can see possible solutions, for example for the country. To be able to think out of the box as experts recommend, we have to be able to look at the box first, what is happening to the country. A lot therefore depends on imagination on broadening the horizons of our people."

One is reminded of what Benedict Anderson wrote a long time ago: that the problem with the Philippines is that we still fail to imagine ourselves as one nation. We are as divided as the 7,000 islands.

Father Gonzales refers to his idol, Jose Rizal, who said that consciousness leads to national identity and self-knowledge leads to love for one's country. "We look down on ourselves," Father Gonzales continues, "but in my studies, there are a lot of inspiring stories. We only need to learn from these. Reading makes us realize we are not alone. There are others who faced adversities and survived them."

The other project is creatively dubbed "Agimat" (magic). It is a retreat or workshop on leadership in which Father Gonzales tries to bring in senior people in leadership positions (the *apo* or elders) to share their experiences with others, especially the young. The Agimat of leaders, he explains, is basically virtue—the virtues of confidence in times of crises, of contemplation, of accountability and service, of sustainability, of communication and of solidarity. "We want to inculcate among the young that leadership is not about position but disposition."

Like Basa, Agimat is about broadening our imagination by learning from inspiring experiences and stories. Reacting to James Fallows' "damaged culture," Father Gonzales says: "Rather than a damaged culture, I would say that we are a culture in search of itself, in search of its soul, for the God that already dwells with us. We say that Filipinos have a split personality. But that is just a stage and, as in psychology, the solution to that is to get to know ourselves, especially the good things, the good news about ourselves. If we are to bounce back as a people, we have to recover our soul."

Heart talk

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S February, the month of hearts, but I'm writing this column thinking about how each year, over the Christmas holidays, I have friends who succumb to cardiovascular diseases. This last holiday season I lost a friend, aged 52. The holidays of 2002 were particularly difficult: I had a close friend, only 48 at that time, who had a massive heart attack as well as one acquaintance who had a stroke. Both survived, but still another friend lost her husband to a stroke.

I've observed that the responses to these events have taken on qualities of religious moralism, with so much blaming and guilt feelings. The temptation to do that is especially strong in our culture, with our religious beliefs built heavily around notions of sin and punishment.

Over Christmas holiday feasts, the conversations inevitably drift toward naming the latest victims of heart disease. People around the table respond, "Yes, I heard," while staring down with guilt at a plateful of *lechon*. In hospital corridors, relatives and friends shake their heads after visiting the victim, whispering about how so-and-so was such a heavy smoker, or lacked exercise.

The patient, too, goes through long and hard soul-searching, wondering what he or she did wrong. The mea culpas—I have sinned, I have sinned—are followed by a vow to be born again into a life without cigarettes and fatty foods, and more exercise but no sex, please.

Zealotry

No doubt, lifestyle changes are necessary both to prevent heart disease as well as to help survivors to recover. But I would warn, too, against the zealotry that emerges on the part of patients or caregivers, especially when they resort to fear tactics and victim-blaming.

We think that heart diseases strike because someone did something "wrong" but there are people, too, who lead perfectly healthy lifestyles but still get strokes or heart attacks. I have a very close relative who has had three transient ischemic attacks (sometimes known as "mini-strokes") within a few months, even if she rarely ate meat, walked at least a kilometer a day and never smoked in her life. It turned out she had a family history of strokes, and did tend to be a worrier. "Genes and nerves," her cardiologist told me.

But can you blame people for worrying too much? The colleague who had a Christmas heart attack had been suffering tremendous stress for several months because of workplace intrigues. People say he should learn to be more detached, but I wonder, given the viciousness of the intrigues, how anyone could just take things in stride.

I have to emphasize again that I believe in healthy lifestyles, but helping people to attain these lifestyles will require more than an appeal to guilt feelings. In the case of my relative who had the transient strokes, I started out with the very positive aspects of her lifestyle, pointing out that her long walks and fairly meatless diet probably helped her to avoid more severe attacks.

Taking good old aspirin was going to be important to help reduce her risks for more serious strokes, but we then tackled her being a worrier and we both acknowledged it wasn't going to be easy to just stop worrying. At the same time, there was much we could tap from her existing lifestyle. Her long walks were usually for going to Mass, but I pointed out that she could take walks for a timeout, in times of stress.

Heartless

I've noticed too how New Age therapies are coming into the picture: going vegetarian, doing yoga and meditation. Again, all that is fine with me, but I also worry at times about how these practices lose their original context of social compassion, and instead become very individualistic quests for health.

If I can take that observation a step further, I keep hearing stories about people who are vegetarian and who meditate and do yoga and tai chi and all that, and yet can be outrageously callous to people around them. In one office, people used to complain about one of their staff who would take over one of the rooms for her meditation and never mind people needing to use the room for their rest. If people dared, politely, to knock, she would snap, "Can't you see I'm meditating?" I'm sure she had a healthy heart, even if at the cost of breaking other people's hearts.

It's interesting, too, how some medical studies are disputing earlier research about Type A and Type B personalities. Originally, they thought that it was Type A people—the assertive, aggressive workaholic types—who were more prone to heart disease than the more laid back Type B personalities. Now there are other studies suggesting Type A personalities may have fewer health problems because they express their frustrations, their anger, when they feel it. It's the humble and the meek, suffering in silence, that might end up with a heart attack.

To summarize, I often suspect that the most evil people in the world probably are at very low risk for heart disease because they know no guilt, know no remorse. Put another way, the issue of healthy hearts has no relevance for the heartless.

Elephants

All this talk about "learning to relax" and "avoiding stress" actually becomes absurd right after a heart attack or stroke, events which are themselves sources of tremendous stress. The friend who had a heart attack told me how, as he was wheeled into the emergency room, he felt like an elephant was sitting on his chest. After the doctors injected him with a drug for the heart attack, it was almost as if the elephant got up and off his chest.

But even as this was happening, he overheard the doctors warning his elder brother that if the heart drug failed, they'd have to resort to other measures, and that the cost could run to about half a million.

"Oh, Mike," my friend told me, "I could feel the elephant storming back in and jumping back on my chest." I can imagine he gets that feeling again, even if only of baby elephants, whenever he has to buy the many medicines prescribed to him.

One last anecdote here: I had to take over part of my friend's teaching load and administrative responsibilities, which has led people to warn me, "Hey, you might be the next one to get a heart attack. Relax *naman*." Easier said than done. The fact is that I would be more stressed out if I just shrugged my shoulders and avoided taking on the responsibilities.

Life's that way. If we are to be vegetarian, it shouldn't be just because of our hearts but because we respect life and want to avoid causing pain and suffering. If we take time off to relax and meditate, it should be to reflect on how we might become kinder, more helpful to people around us. For survivors of heart attacks and strokes, the attitude should be, "I survived. No sense regretting. Life must go on and I will live, more fully, for my friends and my family."

Take heart and live again, with a vengeance.

‘Wet flag’ violates rights of pedestrians

A STROKE of genius. This “wet-flag” scheme of Bayani Fernando. But why stop there? Why don't we ruin the jaywalker's whole week? Just get some creek water, you know, the stenchy kind, full of bacteria, dampen the “flag” with it, and make the offending party sick for a week! That'll really teach him.

Let's not stop there. Bus, jeepney and car drivers making a traffic infraction? Forget the ticket book, get out the blankets! Let's see him drive around soaking wet. We need bigger flags for those sidewalk vendors, big enough to cover their wares and customers. In areas where those pesky pedestrians and potential public transport riders wait at the curb, we can erect permanent poles with a 200-foot boom that can accommodate a huge wet flag, and when rush hour comes, lower the boom so to speak, and drench hundreds of people in one swipe.

I tell you, this idea of Fernando really has potential. We must implement this in elementary and high schools, too. Teachers and principals will have blankets in a drum full of water ready, so that when an errant student acts up—splat! Wet student, bags, notebooks, cell phone and all. That'll really teach him/her.

Child has a tantrum? Splat! Late for work? Splat! Won't eat your vegetables? Splat! Bought pirated DVDs? Splat! Stayed out with the boys too late? Splat!

Let's not stop there. Why not use those Airsoft guns, you know, the paintball weapons, to mark the offending pedestrians with paint, essentially labeling them as a lawbreaker for the rest of the day?

OK, how about this: have the MMDA carry a bottle of silver nitrate solution and paint it on the cheeks of the offender. In a low enough molarity solution, this will not harm the person, but it will leave a black spot on the skin that will last for months.

And for those pesky motor vehicle offenders, the MMDA should carry bottles of brake fluid, to pour over the hood of the offending vehicle. Watch it eat through the paint. Watch the driver cry over the P20,000 repainting bill he has to put up with. Watch him swear that he won't counterflow again. Pretty effective, huh?

While I fully understand the gravity of the problem and the need to curb it, Fernando's solution crosses the line into the realm of assault, which is a crime in any civilized society. You simply cannot right a wrong with another wrong. In the end, Fernando's tsunami of wet rags will just have a shocking impact and will create more problems with the weary mass of overworked, underpaid commuters who just want to go home.

—PIO FORTUNO JR.,
bykerouac@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Democracy on the march

PRAISE be to God! The Iraqi elections were a success. All those who love democracy and human rights should dance in the streets with the Iraqis. All that remains to see is whether the elections were a real success. Now comes the real, hard work and challenge of building a strong, vibrant democratic and free Iraq. But for now, let's celebrate!

There are two measures to determine the success of elections—violence and turnout. It is clear that the incidence of violence was moderate to low compared to the previous days'; and miniscule when one takes into account the fact that the election day was the most important single day in Iraq for decades.

We will have to wait a few more days or weeks to know the total number of voters who cast their votes, especially in the Sunni areas. However, it is now clear that turnout of voters was solid. It was clearly overwhelming in some areas that they ran out of ballots.

And so we are left with a low level of violence and a strong voter turnout. This adds up to a solid success. Hooray! Let's dance!

I know there are some who are too blinded by their anti-American or anti-Bush feelings. They refuse to honor Iraq's success because it might indirectly honor Bush or the United States. They are just blind spoilsports. They should rethink their priorities. Who cares who gets credit for the Iraqi elections? It is a cause for celebration and dancing in the streets. Democracy is on the march!

—BRUCE HALL,
Iloilo City,
brucelhall@pinoymac.org

The many shades of nationalism

IT seems to be that Filipinos have various interpretations of the meaning of nationalism.

For example, in the spirit of nationalism, our national language has been “enriched” with invented words. (Normally, a language develops through usage. In our country, we have these so-called experts of the Filipino language inventing words to be memorized in schools.) It scares me to think of the day when a discussion in chemistry will bring out invented Filipino equivalents for elements, ions, electrolytes, etc. Because of a false sense of nationalism, there might come a time when students would be spending more time memorizing invented Filipino words.

We have baptized typhoons with Filipino names, such as “Yoyong.” (If you were a Frenchman in France, you would certainly be at a loss as to where Yoyong is coming from.) Thus, tracing the origin and direction of the typhoons has become a nightmare.

Also, in the name of nationalism, politicians take to changing the foreign-sounding names of streets and highways to Filipino-sounding names: Azcarraga to Claro M. Recto; Pennsylvania to Leon Guinto; Dewey Boulevard to Roxas Boulevard; Dakota to Adriatico; Buendia to Gil Puyat; Herran to Pedro Gil, among others. And the politicians apparently engage in the pursuit of these changes as if they are an immense contribution to national progress.

They spend hundreds of hours and millions of pesos for these “accomplishments,” while people are in dire need of clean water; our esteros are clogged and stinking; our public markets reek of foul odor; our traffic is in chaos; our rivers and coasts are dying from pollution; our public vehicles emit poison; our economy is going from bad to worse and our national debt out of control.

Our politicians ignore these problems and instead focus on holding on to their pork barrel. Meanwhile, we hear of generals accused of unbridled corruption as their jet-setting wives claim that their fortunes were earned *as utang na loob* from favored contractors. We hear of grisly murders and all we hear from our leaders is a squeak.

When our leaders' main concern is to accumulate wealth, what do we expect?

—ANGEL A. ESPELETA,
2689 Arellano Ave.,
Malate, Manila

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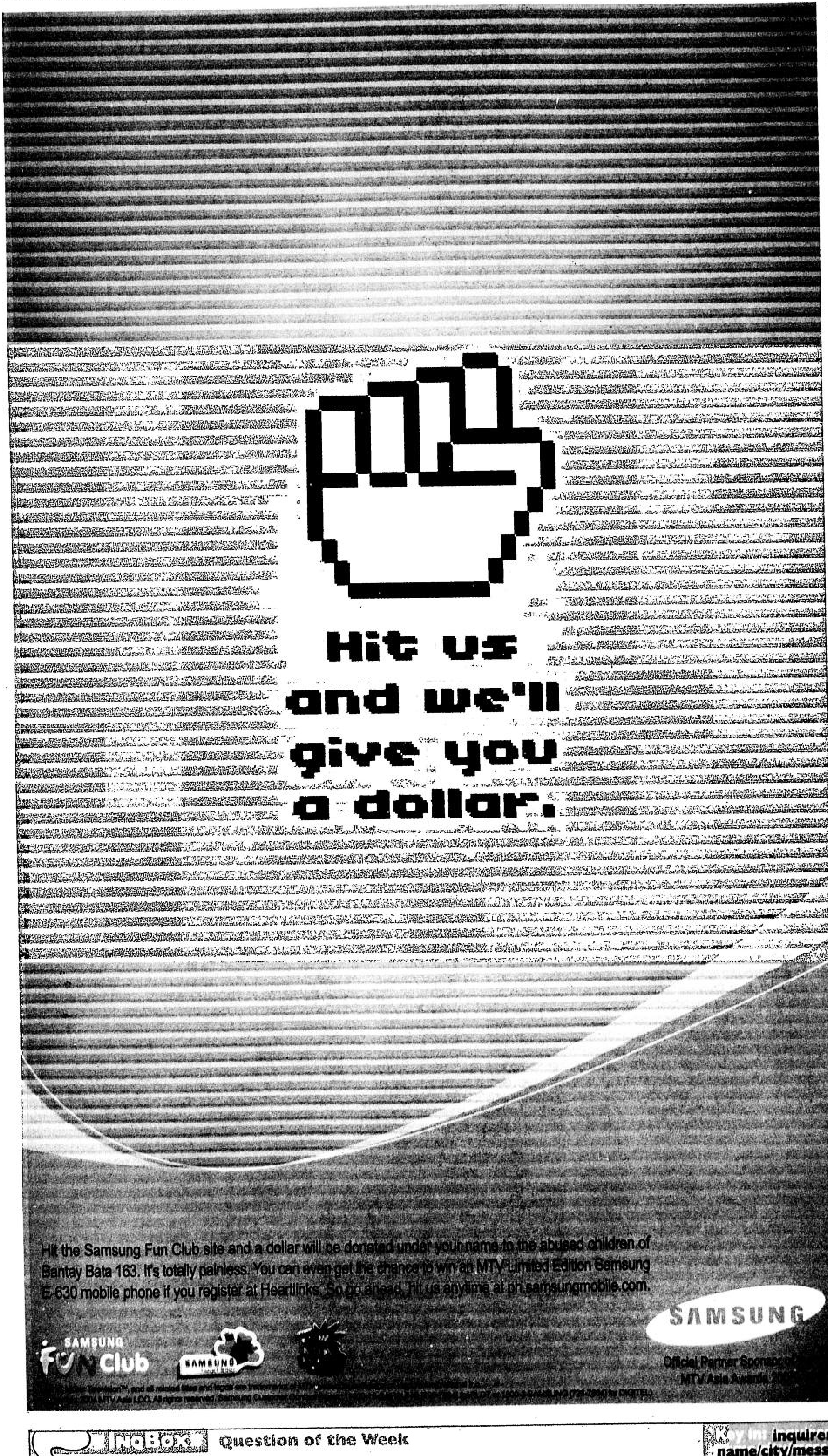

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INQBOX
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Question of the Week

What is your reaction to Imelda Marcos' elation over the US court ruling preventing human rights victims from sharing $683 million in Marcos assets that was turned over to the government?

Senders of d best 10 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! Ü*

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Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
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Illegal loggers mock gov't crackdown

MATI, Davao Oriental—Illegal loggers, who reportedly receive protection from ranking provincial and environment officials here, continue their activities despite the government's renewed crackdown on illegal cutting of trees.

On Wednesday, police seized two truckloads of illegally cut logs in Barangay Macambol.

David Pajarillaga, forest management specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the seized logs include 259 pieces of premium forest species such as *almasiga*.

Pajarillaga said the seized logs were about to be transported to Davao City when it was intercepted by the police.

He said the seized logs were worth at least P300,000.

Mati chief of police, Chief Insp. Jose Catimbang, said the trucks used by the illegal loggers were owned by an Eduardo Colean and a Rufino Poniones.

Pajarillaga said they were still investigating who actually owned the illegally cut logs.

Environment officials said illegal logging persists in the province "because loggers are heavily armed."

"We in the DENR, especially our forest rangers, do not even have short firearms. We could not fight the illegal loggers," Romy Torres, community environment officer, told the INQUIRER.

Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil, which was identified by Sen. Miriam Santiago as one of the governors protecting illegal logging, said soldiers tasked with protecting the forest should be blamed for illegal logging activities.

She said in Cateel town, there were reports that loggers could easily pass checkpoints by giving "goats or Fundador (a brand of brandy)."

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, spokesperson of the military in Southeastern Mindanao, denied Palma Gil's accusation.

In Puerto Princesa, a community environment and natural resources officer (Cenro), who was sacked for misusing a permit from his department, faces the scorn of the provincial council even if he was already relieved from his post.

The board members thrice called on former Taytay, Palawan Cenro Samuel Cirilo to appear before them at the Question Hour of the Council but he failed to do so.

Cirilo was sacked from his post two weeks ago for allegedly using a private land timber permit (PLTP) of another person to transport timber.

A PLTP is issued to an applicant who has a parcel of land where trees will be cut.

The trees could be used for private purposes provided these are cut from a private land. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Church, solon join campaign vs 'jueteng'

LEGAZPI CITY—A Church leader and a lawmaker have joined hands in campaigning for a stop to the proliferation of illegal numbers games, especially "jueteng," in Albay and other parts of the region.

A two-page diocesan pastoral statement on gambling was issued by Bishop Jose Sorra yesterday as his Ash Wednesday message.

Sorra said "one of the social scourges that have been afflicting and weakening the economic and moral fibers of our poverty-stricken people is the organized, widespread and systematic illegal and immoral game of numbers called *jueteng*."

Sorra cited the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' collective statement against gambling that "it is creating a culture of gambling that is seriously eroding the moral values of the people."

Clandestine

"In its illegal form, especially *jueteng*, gambling has bred a clandestine network of corruption that feeds itself on the hundreds of million of pesos lost to gambling, especially by the poor."

Albay Rep. Carlos Imperial (NPC, 2nd Dist.) has urged Bicol police regional director Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda to implement the national policy against *jueteng*.

In his letter to Mosqueda, Imperial said the declared national policy is to totally stop the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

"Information has reached my office that illegal numbers game is prevalent in my district, 2nd District of Albay," Imperial said.

Imperial's district is composed of the City of Legazpi and the municipalities of Daraga, Manito and Rapu-Rapu.

The lawmaker appealed to Mosqueda to order the provincial director of Albay and the station chiefs of police to put an end to the operation of the illegal numbers game.

Evils

The bishop added that the Church and the Diocese of Legazpi highly commend and vigorously support the lawmaker's "bold stroke of the pen to serve notice to the police and the military authorities" that he personally and unequivocally condemns and denounces the evils of illegal gambling.

Sorra has challenged the two other congressmen of Albay to follow suit and other political leaders to commit themselves to the campaign against *jueteng* like what Imperial did.

He ordered his priests to read his pastoral statement at all churches and village chapels yesterday and this Sunday.

He appealed to the public, especially media, to renew the collective commitment to combat the growing culture of gambling.

Amid the call of Sorra and Imperial, *jueteng* continues to operate in Albay and other provinces of Bicol.

In Camarines Norte, *jueteng* operations started since five days ago and draws are being made in San Jose, Talisay for Bicol-speaking municipalities and in Labo town for Tagalog-speaking towns, according to Jun Zabala of Ang Bikol Ngayon, a local weekly tabloid.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

5.2 quake sends monkeys fleeing

SUBIC FREEPORT ZONE—A 5.2 magnitude earthquake in certain areas in Luzon at 4:59 a.m. on Thursday disturbed monkeys in the forests of Subic where the tremor was felt at Intensity 2.

Delegates to the 4th Luzon-wide Higher Education Press Conference, all holed up in Subic's Forest Hills, one of the highest peaks in that economic zone, reported seeing many monkeys descend as the earth shook.

Some students rushed out of their villas, according to Dr. Paulito Nisperos.

Andy Cubalit, a teacher from Baguio City's Montecillo International College, said he was jolted from sleep.

Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the quake was not strong enough to generate tsunami or tidal waves.

It was recorded 50 km northeast of Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, Solidum said.

The quake, running 90 km deep, was caused by the movement of the Manila Trench, he added. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Anti-smuggling team says ₱50M in goods seized

A TOTAL of P50 million worth of smuggled goods have been seized by the Task Force Subic in a period of two months since President Macapagal-Arroyo created the task force and declared an all-out war against smuggling in the country.

In his accomplishment report to SBMA Chair Francisco Licuanan and Administrator Alfredo Antonio, Task Force Director Jose Calimlim, a retired general, reported at least 10 cases of apprehension involving smuggling of luxury vehicles, automotive spare parts, appliances, household items, jewelry and various second-hand vehicles.

In a statement, Calimlim said his task force brought a renewed drive to fight the unabated smuggling inside the freeport and since then, the group remained vigilant and steadfast.

The former general had announced a no nonsense drive and had not succumbed to pressures from various groups to go slow. "I am here to enforce and implement the order of our President for the sake of our government and country," he said in his statement.

The task force, a composite team with members from the Armed Forces, the Intelligence Services, the Bureau of Customs, Philippine National Police and the Department of Justice, is the anti-smuggling operations arm of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Calimlim also credited the Bureau of Customs Port of Subic which is headed by District Collector Atty. Marletta Zamoranos, for vigilance and support in the anti-smuggling campaign.

Protests mount vs sex offender's return

BAGUIO CITY—Education Secretary Florencio Abad is facing contempt from all quarters of Baguio's education sector for reinstating the convict in the country's first sexual harassment case.

Magdalena Gapuz, one of the teachers who accused Allyson Belagan, Baguio City schools superintendent, of sexual misconduct in 1994, is leading a Valentine's Day protest against Abad. Belagan's conviction was affirmed by the Supreme Court on Oct. 19, 2004.

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Alexander Bangsoy, Gapuz's lawyer, said the ruling's "dispositive portion (penalty clause)" did not refer to Belagan's reinstatement.

He said Abad could have simply withdrawn Belagan from his post instead of resorting to a "media spin."

"By doing so, he could salvage whatever is left of the dwindling respect for DepEd as a moral institution," Bangsoy said in a press statement.

Bangsoy, who is also a member of the feminist Gabriela Legal Support Group, said outraged teachers and parents would not allow Belagan and his "political patrons" to bow out gracefully. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
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SO ORDERED.

By Authority of the Board:

(SGD) MANUEL G. IMPERIAL
Executive Director
Toll Regulatory Board

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CLASS 1

	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	STR	PUL	SAN	SNF	MXC	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	42											
Valenzuela	42											
Lawang Bato	42	42										
Meycauayan	42	42										
Marilao	42	42	42									
Bocaue	51	51	51	51								
Tabang	75	75	75	75	[illegible]							
Sta. Rita	78	78	78	78	27							
Pulilan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17						
San Simon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]					
San Fernando	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]				
Mexico	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Angeles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Dau	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sta. Ines	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	13

CLASS 2

	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	STR	PUL	SAN	SNF	MXC	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	106											
Valenzuela	106											
Lawang Bato	106	106										
Meycauayan	106	106										
Marilao	106	106	106									
Bocaue	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]								
Tabang	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]							
Sta. Rita	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	67							
Pulilan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	42						
San Simon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]					
San Fernando	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	56				
Mexico	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	44			
Angeles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Dau	507	507	507	507	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sta. Ines	507	507	507	507	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

CLASS 3

	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	STR	PUL	SAN	SNF	MXC	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	127											
Valenzuela	127											
Lawang Bato	127	127										
Meycauayan	127	127										
Marilao	127	127	127									
Bocaue	155	155	155	155								
Tabang	225	225	225	225	70							
Sta. Rita	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	80							
Pulilan	286	286	286	286	[illegible]	[illegible]						
San Simon	375	375	375	375	[illegible]	[illegible]	87					
San Fernando	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	66				
Mexico	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	53			
Angeles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Dau	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sta. Ines	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

SEGMENT	LENGTH	TOLL RATE		
	(in Kms.)	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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HOW do I LOVE THEE, let me count the WAYS
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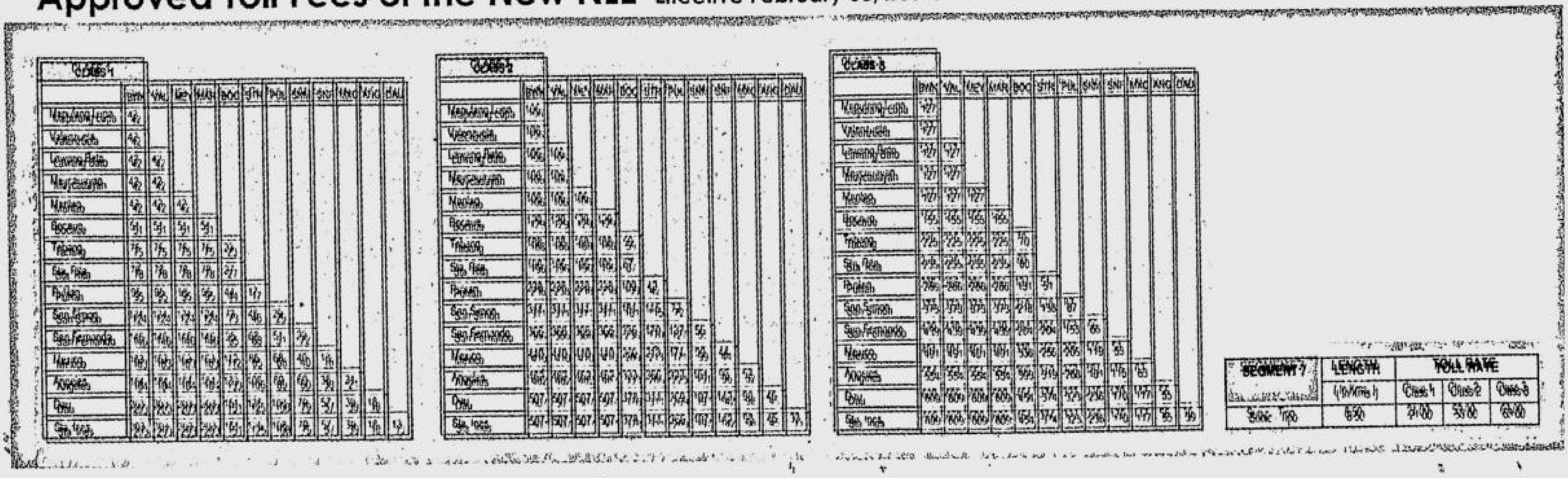

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Tanauan murder survivor vows to pursue raps

TANAUAN CITY—Two days after leaving the hospital where he was treated for 42 days for multiple gunshot wounds, the murder survivor who witnessed how his two friends were gunned down by this city mayor's bodyguard is now ready to file charges, testify and get justice for him and his two friends.

Florante Mendoza, 39, and his fellow waiters Fernando Malipol and Arman Sandoval, were gunned down by Rene Dologmanding, bodyguard of Mayor Alfredo Corona, at about 11 p.m., Dec. 29 last year at the Modesto Hall in front of the St. John Evangelist Church in Barangay Uno this city.

Dologmanding fired at the three victims using an Uzi machine pistol, killing Malipol and Sandoval instantly. Mendoza suffered five gunshot wounds.

He was taken at the Batangas Regional Hospital and transferred to a hospital in Tanauan where he stayed for over a month.

"My resolve to get justice for me and my two friends . . . never waned even if I was in the hospital for more than a month," Mendoza, the lone survivor, said.

"But what really pains me and my family was the unfair television reports that said I refused to testify and that I was paid to be silent."

Mendoza and the two other victims were all from Barangay Ambulong in this city and used to be drinking buddies.

"That's the reason I can't just go silent on the case, because the two were my friends," Mendoza said. "How can I testify when I was in the hospital with a number of gunshot wounds?"

According to Mendoza, he was with Malipol and Sandoval on Dec. 29 at the Modesto Hall where the mayor was attending a reunion party when Dologmanding, the mayor's bodyguard, went berserk.

They were there as an advance party of a catering company to prepare for a wedding the next day.

Mendoza said Malipol just asked Dologmanding if he could use the toilet of the Modesto Hall, but the mayor's bodyguard refused.

"The last thing I remember was Dologmanding shouting '*Walang siga-siga dito sa akin sa* Tanauan (Nobody can bully me in Tanauan)' then he took out his Uzi . . . I remember being hit by many bullets and fell into the back of the trash box," Mendoza recalled.

He was discharged on Feb. 8 and now walks with crutches.

Malipol's widow, Anna Marie, 35, a factory worker in Metro Manila, was left with six children, the eldest of them is 8 years old, and the youngest, a nine-month-old baby.

"I want justice for my husband. What did he do to deserve such a brutal death? He just asked Dologmanding if he could use the comfort room . . .," Anna Marie said.

Sandoval's widow, Eljie, 26, a fish vendor, was left with two kids, ages six and four. But Eljie said she had already been traumatized.

"The chief of police of Tanauan has already scolded me for talking to the media," Eljie said. *Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MACHINE AGAINST DRUGS
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
A road roller crushes pieces of equipment believed to be used in manufacturing shabu that were seized during a raid on a suspected drug laboratory in Davao City at the start of the year.

Leyte doctors hold 'sit down' strike

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—The provincial government on Tuesday was besieged by complaints after doctors at the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) went on a "sit down" strike to protest the suspension of an agreement that allowed them to continue their private practice.

Although they were present, the doctors did not attend to the patients who went to the IPHO's out patient department in retaliation to the move of the provincial board.

On Monday, doctors at the IPHO received a copy of Resolution No. 036-2005 "suspending the implementation of the memorandum of agreement allowing private practice of government doctors . . ."

Dr. Imelda Rodriguez, IPHO chief of clinics, said the doctors staged the strike on Tuesday in "retaliation for suspending the (implementation of the) MOA without due process."

She said the provincial board members should have notified the doctors first or gave them a chance to air their side when they deliberated on the issue.

"They did a drastic move (and) we could also make one," Rodriguez told the INQUIRER.

She, however, clarified that they still took care of patients confined at the hospital and attended to patients on follow-up check-ups.

The provincial board approved on Jan. 12 the MOA, which was drafted by the doctors, but only to suspend its implementation on Jan. 24. The copy of the resolution was received by the doctors on Monday.

In the MOA, the IPHO doctors were allowed to continue their private practice as an incentive for the low salary they get from the provincial government. These doctors receive a monthly salary of between P17,000 and P20,000.

But the private practice of these doctors should be done when they are off duty at the IPHO. The Department of Health allows such a practice.

During a dialogue with the doctors on Wednesday, board member Eva Tomol explained that the suspension of the MOA followed complaints by some patients that they were made to pay even if the consultation was done in the government hospital.

NIA chief asks if case on irrigation scam filed

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The new administrator of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has asked the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas (OMD-Visayas) if the complaint on alleged irregularities in the P120-million small reservoir irrigation project (SRIP) in Talibon, Bohol was indeed filed with the anti-graft office.

The query was made by new NIA administrator Proceso Domingo in a letter sent to Deputy Ombudsman for Visayas Primo Miro on Jan. 26.

Domingo gave a copy of his letter to engineer Petronilo Sarigumba of the Boholanos Against Corruption, Oppression and Social Harassment (Bacosh).

Last year, Sarigumba and Bacosh filed a complaint on the alleged irregularities in the construction of the Talibon Dam under Provincial Irrigation Engineer Calixto Seroje.

Domingo informed Miro that former NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras directed the conduct of a fact-finding investigation last November.

He said the investigation report was forwarded to the NIA Committee on Discipline "for appropriate action."

"In the course of our evaluation, however, we discovered that there is a pending case before your office against Mr. Seroje and filed by Mr. Sarigumba which substantially deals on the issue of the construction of the Talibon Dam," Domingo said.

The NIA administrator requested Miro to provide information on the "action taken thereon."

"Please be informed that said information is vital in the determination of whether or not forum shopping exists . . .," Domingo added.

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PHILIPS

Battalion commander killed in Sulu

From page A1

lanueva, the battalion commander, and Pfc. Cris Bautista—later died at the Sulu Provincial Hospital, according to Khalil Yusah, the attending physician.

Brig. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, chief of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the military had renewed its "offensive position" and soldiers were now entering the MNLF camp in Bitanag.

Troops have been battling about 800 fighters from the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf bandit group and renegade members of the MNLF since the militants ambushed a convoy of soldiers in Patikul town on Monday.

Military strikes

Army howitzers started shelling rebel positions at dawn yesterday and nearly 4,000 troops ringed the two groups of fighters holed up in a mountain hideout, said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

Three OV-10 aircraft dropped 250-lb bombs on rebel bunkers and sporadic gunfire was heard as the militants tried to shoot down the aircraft, he said.

"We are softening the enemy's positions before the troops go in," Pascual said, adding that there have been no reports of rebel activity elsewhere in Jolo.

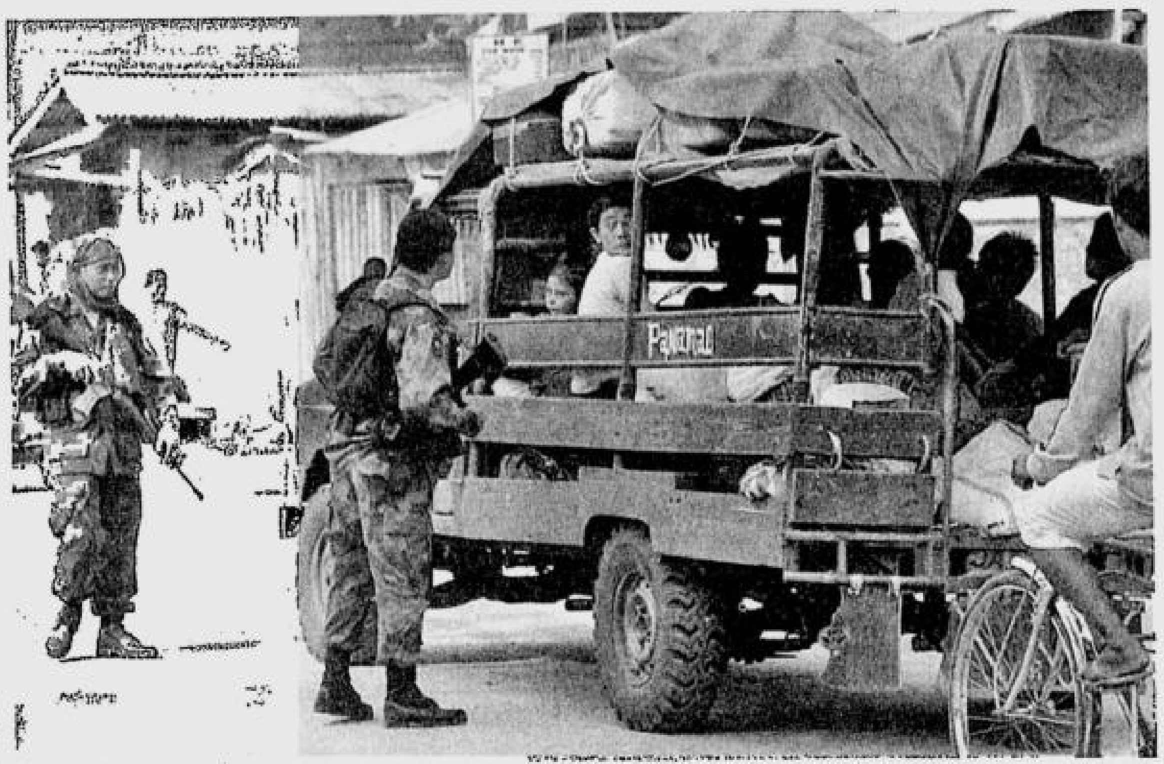
The MNLF, formerly headed by Misuari, signed a peace deal with the government in 1996, but some disgruntled members joined the Abu Sayyaf and were involved in several kidnappings in 2000.

Surrounded

Authorities said they have surrounded the main remaining force of at least 200 Moro gunmen near Panamao.

A rebel camp in the town was overrun early yesterday, said Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza.

Several thousand people have fled their homes since the fighting erupted early Monday. Filipino staff members of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) said they were ordered to leave the island.



PASSENGERS are checked out at a roadblock in Jolo as the fighting between Muslim rebels and government troops continues on its fourth day Thursday. Hundreds of troops have been rushed to Jolo. AFP

"We suspended travel for the meantime. It is a situation response but there is no pulling out of employees," said Noel Ruiz, program manager of Growth with Equity's Livelihood Enhancement and Peace Program (LEPP) in Zamboanga City.

GEM is financed by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

'Surrender or nothing'

Braganza vowed to crush the rebels unless they surrendered.

"It's either surrender or nothing. They should lay down their arms and surrender to me those who killed my soldiers there," he said.

Abdurahman Jamasali, a former MNLF member and former interior secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, was sent by House Speaker Jose de Venecia to talk to the rebels about stopping the fighting.

"I asked them why they launched the offensive. They told me they were mad at the mass arrest of MNLF members in Sulu and the massacre by soldiers of a Muslim family in Barangay Karawan in Maimbung," Jamasali said.

Jamasali said Malik would only agree to a ceasefire if the military withdrew.

Musli Ibrahim, a Moro rebel leader formerly allied with the gunmen, said the attackers were ex-separatist guerrillas who would not back down from a fight to protect their stronghold.

Asked in a radio interview if the attackers would likely surrender, he replied: "That's not (in) the language of a revolutionary."

Senior Supt. Sukarno Ikbala, ARMM police chief, said a police official was declared missing after Wednesday's clash in Barangay Panabuan in Indanan town.

Braganza, who flew to General Santos City to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo, had ordered the deployment of another Marine battalion to Sulu.

'Free firing zones'

Dema-ala said the military and local leaders of Indanan, Patikul, Panamao, Parang and Luuk had agreed to establish "free firing zones" to protect civilian lives. Civilians were told to leave these areas.

Troops have been put on alert and security has been tightened in areas near Jolo, particularly in Zamboanga, to prevent diversionary attacks, including bombings, according to Pascual.

If they can, government forces want to capture or finish off the attackers now, he said.

Vicious cycle

"This is a vicious cycle. They would take a rest and then create trouble again," Pascual told ABS-CBN television. "I think it's an opportunity for the Armed Forces to really finish this."

Misuari formerly headed the MNLF, a large Moro separatist group that accepted limited autonomy and signed a peace accord with the government in 1996.

But violence flared again years later and Misuari was imprisoned near Manila on charges of rebellion. Many of his armed followers still maintain strongholds in Jolo, and have been accused of supporting the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf. *Reports from Julie S. Alipala, Ed General, Therence Koh and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Alcuin Papa in Manila; and INQUIRER wires*

GMA assures Islamic states fighting in Sulu isolated

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) that the armed hostilities in Sulu were isolated and that military operations in several towns in the predominantly Muslim province were directed at "terrorists and criminals."

"The situation in Sulu has brought together the forces of law against the force of lawlessness. As we (fight) pockets of criminals and terrorist holdouts, we are keeping the line of the law firm with the full cooperation of the local governments," Ms Arroyo said in a speech at the 27th national assembly of the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines in Sarangani.

" ... We will win the peace for the people but we will not give the terrorists a moment of peace."

Some 3,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Sulu after clashes broke out between the military and members of an alleged breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), whose leader Nur Misuari had forged a peace agreement with the government.

Ms Arroyo said the military operations in Sulu were not directed at the MNLF which, she pointed out, had been allies and co-leaders in various local government posts.

"What are we doing? We are fighting against terrorists and criminals in Panamao and Indanan in Sulu. Therefore, we are ensuring that MNLF communities and civilians are kept out of harm's way even as we wage war against criminals and terrorists," she said.

She said the evacuees were being cared for and fed until it was safe for them to return to their homes.

Ms Arroyo said the ceasefire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was "holding tight far and wide and we will soon set up joint teams to go after lawless elements as we prepare for the resumption of peace talks."

Government negotiators, led by Secretary Teresita Quinto-Deles, said they had told diplomats from the OIC member-countries during a briefing on the peace process with the MILF that the fighting in Sulu would not set back upcoming talks with the Moro rebel group.

"We gave a little [update] on where it (fighting) was now ... and the efforts that are being taken to contain the situation," Deles, presidential adviser on the peace process, told reporters after emerging from the briefing at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The MILF, which broke away from the MNLF after the latter signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996 and took up the fight for an independent Islamic state, has so far managed to keep its men from joining the skirmishes. *Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio*

Militants assail 'secret' releases of Marcos ...

From page A1

said they were alarmed by Sen. Joker Arroyo's statement that Malacañang had already spent part of the recovered Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Arroyo said a report submitted by incoming Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima showed a balance of only $467.67 million (P26.19 billion) as of Dec. 31, 2004, of the original amount which had been $683 million in 2003.

"Purisima's report confirmed that Ms Arroyo had already taken the sole power to spend the Marcos loot," said Mariano.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said the confusion about the Marcos loot was due to the lack of knowledge of some Malacañang officials.

"They have been saying that the money is intact when part of the money has been spent. I think we need an authoritative spokesperson who is the President. She should make an accounting of the money so that the people will know once and for all," Ocampo said.

In Sarangani province yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo denied the Marcos Swiss deposits recovered by the government and other public funds were diverted to her campaign during the presidential election of 2004.

"All public money is spent according to the law," Ms Arroyo said at a press conference in Sarangani, when asked about charges that she had used part of the $683 million in recovered Marcos loot for her presidential campaign.

It was the first time the President had spoken about the charges aired by lawmakers.

She said the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) would be able to explain where the money went.

"Now let me take the opportunity to talk about [victims of] human rights [violations during the Marcos regime]. We are committed to assist the human rights victims. We need a law; I have in fact certified that bill as urgent," Ms Arroyo said.

She was referring to a bill seeking to use part of the $683 million in Marcos Swiss deposits forfeited in favor of the government to indemnify the victims of human rights violations during martial law.

Though she has set aside $200 million of the Marcos loot, the money cannot be released to the claimants until the existing law is amended. The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law provides that all Marcos ill-gotten wealth recovered by the government should go to agrarian reform.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President did not divert the Marcos funds.

"The opposition is shooting in the dark on this one. The use of funds is governed by law and nothing has been diverted for ends other than that provided for in law," Bunye said in a statement.

Malicious

Bunye said the President was committed to working with Congress in amending the law that would compensate the victims of the Marcos regime.

"The funds for this are intact and to say that the fund has been depleted for partisan ends is malicious," Bunye said.

In the House of Representatives, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales revealed that about P12 billion of the $683 million (P38 billion) in Marcos money recovered from Switzerland had been spent on dubious transactions.

Of the P12 billion, P2.7 billion in cash advances went to the Land Bank of the Philippines in 2003, and P2.2 billion to the Department of Agrarian Reform and other agencies involved in agrarian reform, said Rosales, chair of the House committee on human rights.

A total of P28 billion was supposed to go to agrarian reform and P10 billion to victims of the Marcos regime as promised by the President.

Violation

Rosales said this was a clear violation of a Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) resolution directing that 70 percent of the Marcos loot be used for land acquisition and 30 percent for high-impact intervention.

Rosales said most officials directly responsible for the budgeting and accounting at DAR were no longer around to answer questions on how the department had spent the Marcos loot.

Ricardo Reyes, executive director of the Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services, a social movement of farmers, told the INQUIRER that he had informed the Rosales committee in October last year about the dubious transactions at DAR involving the recovered Marcos Swiss deposits.

He said he found that P544 million of the Marcos money had been used to fund the hybrid rice program called Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA), while P30 million was used for the Calauag Quezon Province Integrated Coconut Processing Plant (CQPICPP), which is owned by a private firm.

A total of P541 million was used for irrigation projects that were altered by the National Irrigation Authority two months before the presidential election in 2004, according to Reyes.

He said the hybrid rice program had come under fire because it was tainted with ghost deliveries.

Private firm

Reyes said former Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan gave the go-signal to transfer the money to CQPICPP, which was neither a victim of martial law nor a beneficiary of land reform.

"Somewhere along the way, it seems government officials have been dipping their hands into the Marcos money for anomalous transactions, but Malacañang is quick to brush them off with no convincing evidence at all," he said.

Reyes said his information became the basis for the filing of a resolution by Akbayan representatives seeking a full accounting of the money. The resolution was referred early this year to the oversight committee chaired by Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez.

Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa said the DAR's books were open for congressional scrutiny.

"We have no objections to any investigation of how the money was spent. Besides, these are public funds," Villa said.

Based on an agreement reached at the National Anti-Poverty Commission, 70 percent of the land reform program's share of the recovered Marcos assets was to be used for land acquisition and distribution, while 30 percent would be spent for agricultural support systems such as irrigation and fertilizer supply, according to Villa.

"You can't have a land reform program without these support systems. The (farmer-beneficiaries) will only end up having to pawn or sell their land," he said.

Villa, however, who was appointed to the post late last year, would not comment on allegations that the agrarian reform program's share of the Marcos money had been used to augment Ms Arroyo's campaign kitty in 2004.

"I don't know. That was before my time," Villa told the INQUIRER when asked about allegations that the funds had financed the President's campaign.

Reenacted budget

Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Jose Mari Ponce, whom Villa replaced, said the middle of last year that DAR had charged P4.9 billion against the $683 million (roughly P38 billion) for the agency's land distribution program.

Ponce told the INQUIRER last June that the P4.9 billion was used to augment the P14.6-billion "reenacted" budget of DAR for 2004.

He said the budget charged against the recovered Marcos assets would cover the P2.7 billion in partial payment of cash advances from the Landbank in 2003 and the P2.2 billion in operational expenses of the implementing agencies of CARP in 2004.

Ponce would not immediately return phone calls for comment on the alleged use of the funds for the administration's election campaign in 2004.

Marcos victims fear they may never get share of $683-M loot

By Norman Bordadora

VICTIMS of the Marcos regime yesterday expressed fears that they might not get a share of the $683 million in recovered Marcos deposits because the money has been placed in the general fund of the national government.

Torture victim Marie Hilao-Enriquez, one of the over 9,000 victims of human rights violations who filed and won the class suit against deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos in Hawaii, questioned the propriety of the government spending the recovered assets.

"By what authority did they spend the money? It was transferred to the national treasury only in March 2004 and could not have been included in the budget for last year," Enriquez told the INQUIRER.

"If it was not included in the budget hearings, the more that they should explain to the victims how and why they spent the money," she said.

Enriquez said the victims of martial law were being "victimized twice over" by the government's spending of the Marcos wealth.

"This money is just a token. The lost and shattered lives can no longer be brought back repaired. Now, they can't even give token justice?" she said, calling the government's spending of the Marcos wealth thievery.

Enriquez said that while Sen. Joker Arroyo assured the victims that their share was intact, the senator himself recognized the possibility that the compensation fund could be lost when the recovered assets are placed in the general fund.

"Where are the funds for the Armed Forces modernization that should have come from the privatization of former military bases? Until now, they could not explain where the money is," she said.

General also owns unit in luxury Makati condo

From page A1

Located at the corner of Valero and Sedeno streets in Makati, Paseo Parkview consists of two towers—one is 30 stories high and the other 38 stories—dubbed the 'emblem of modern urban living.' It has a swimming pool, sun deck, fitness center, plush lobby and 24-hour convenience store.

From P3.2M to P10M

The cost of each condo unit ranges from P3.2 million for a 40-sq. m. studio, to P10 million for a 109-sq. m. two-bedroom unit, if bought with cash.

When the INQUIRER tried to visit Ligot at his Paseo Parkview condominium on Tuesday, the receptionist, after going over the directory, said the general owned a unit but "is not a resident of Paseo."

At a committee hearing on Jan. 26, Ligot, who preceded Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia as comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, denied owning a unit at Paseo Parkview. He also denied maintaining an address in the building.

Other residences

Paseo Parkview, however, was just one of the several "known addresses" of Ligot where the invitations for him to appear before the House defense committee were sent in December, according to the committee report.

Invitations were also delivered personally by a member of the committee staff to an alleged Ligot address at Unit 19-A Lawton Tower, Essensa East Forbes Condominium at the Fort, but the unit was found to be occupied by a Japanese national.

Invitations were also hand-delivered to two supposed Ligot houses in Muntinlupa, another house at the Bases Conversion Development Authority area in Taguig and yet another in Barangay Lapu-lapu, Batangas City, the report said.

Ligot, however, did not declare these assets in his statement of assets and liabilities when he was still in active military service. He retired last year with a monthly salary of not more than P35,000.

Houses in US

His other questionable assets included houses in Buena Park, California, worth $183,000, and a house in Anaheim, California, worth $504,000. The former was bought with cash in 2002, while the latter was bought through a loan in 2003.

The houses are registered in the name of Ligot's wife, Erlinda.

GMA goes a-courting, ups Valentine's gift to P3,000

PRESIDENT ARROYO launches a water project for the Kaulo tribe in Barangay Kawayan, Malungon, Sarangani province.

EDWIN BACASMAS

From page A1

three times the amount announced by her spokesperson on Monday.

Ms Arroyo signed on Wednesday Executive Order No. 115 providing for the P3,000 productivity enhancement pay. On that day, the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) spoke out and belittled the Valentine cash gift as "heartless."

Courage had expected the Arroyo administration to give each of the 1.4 million government workers a P5,000 cash gift, or the same amount they had received in December.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had announced that the Valentine bonus would be "anywhere from P1,000 to P2,000."

The President said the cash gift was for the government workers' "commendable efforts to maximize the limited financial resources and provide quality services despite the austerity measures."

According to Bunye, the amount of the bonus was based on the savings resulting from last year's austerity measures, such as the cutback on fuel and power consumption, foreign travels and seminars, which were estimated to reach at least P3 billion.

Given to all

The P3,000 bonus will be given to all government employees, whether permanent or casual, temporary or contractual, with at least four months of service.

The President's EO stated that the bonus would come from the available net savings of each department and the unreleased appropriations in the 2004 budget.

For constitutional offices and fiscal autonomy groups, the bonus would come from their respective available savings.

Government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions would charge the bonuses against their corporate funds.

Across the board

But Courage will not settle for a one-time gift of P3,000.

It wants an across-the-board increase of P3,000 per month, on grounds that government salaries have remained unchanged since 2001, when a monthly increase of P200 was given.

Malacañang, however, has yet to budge from its position that the government cannot afford a salary increase because of budgetary woes.

Instead of a wage hike, the President yesterday announced her plan to extend "enrollment assistance" to government employees when the new school year starts in June.

She ordered the Department of Budget and Management to study how this new cash gift could be financed.

2nd witness to murder . . .

From page A1

Amoro, the other witness in the Damalerio killing, was shot dead at the gates of the Zamboanga del Sur National High School, where he was a teacher. His body bore seven bullet wounds.

"It was the second attempt on my life," said Ongue, considered a vital witness in the Damalerio slay case because of his personal acquaintance with the main suspect, former police officer Guillermo Wapile.

He recounted that two men tried to kill him inside the bus terminal in Molave town last year. As it happened, the would-be assassin's pistol jammed and he found an opportunity to run.

He has been in hiding since then.

Attempted abduction

Ongue said that a few months after Damalerio's murder on May 13, 2002, two motorcycle-riding men attempted to kidnap his wife in Sumadat, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur.

He also said that before the attempts on his life, a relative of Wapile's offered his family P50,000 in exchange for his recantation of his testimony against the ex-police officer.

Damalerio's killing was one of the many unsolved cases recently studied by the International Federation of Journalists in cooperation with the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

The federation noted that government inaction and a "culture of violence" were behind the increasing incidence of journalist killings in the country.

Change of venue

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday endorsed a petition lodged by Damalerio's widow, Gemma, for the transfer of the venue of Wapile's trial, according to Sheila Coronel, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and prime mover of the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists.

Coronel said the high court's decision on the change of venue was expected to be issued on Feb. 15.

Wapile's murder trial has been suspended since October last year, when Gemma Damalerio filed the appeal seeking the transfer of the trial venue from Pagadian to Manila or Cebu City.

She cited the danger to her and the witnesses' lives as the basis for her petition. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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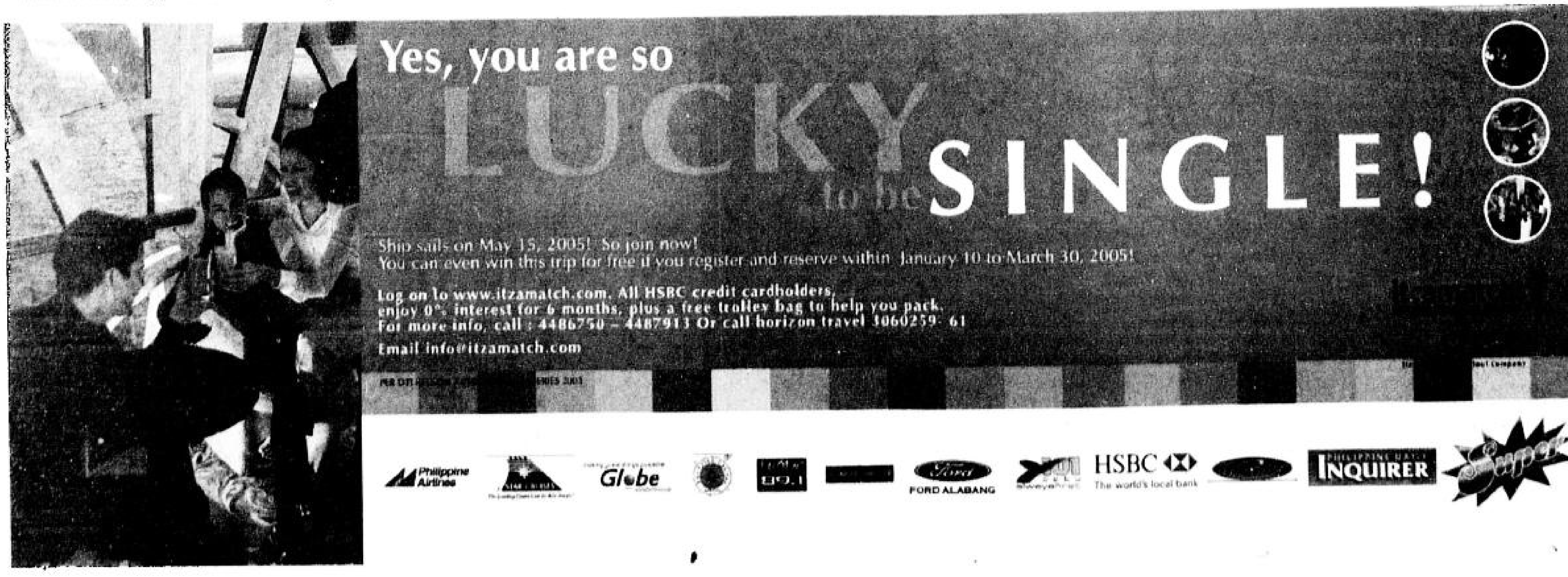

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PHILHEALTH BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 760 s.2005

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OFEXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 182 DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2003, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 392 DATED DECEMBER 28, 2004 "TRANSFER OF THE MEDICARE FUNCTIONS OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TO THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 195 DATED AUGUST13, 1994

TITLE I
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Section 1. Declaration of Principles and Policies. Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost.

Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995, established the National Health Insurance Program to provide health insurance coverage and ensure affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for all citizens of the Philippines, and created the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to, among others, administer the National Health Insurance Program.

Section 6, Article III of R.A. No. 7875 as amended and Section 5, Rule I, Title III of its 2004 Implementing Rules and Regulations provide that all citizens of the Philippines including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their dependents, shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 182 dated February 14, 2003 as amended by Executive Order No. 392 dated December 28, 2004, the functions of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) relative to Medicare operations are transferred to PhilHealth under the following guiding principles:

1. PhilHealth and OWWA shall ensure continuity in the Medicare Program service delivery to OFWs during the transition period;

2. The transfer shall in no case result in any diminution or discontinuity of the existing OWWA Medicare benefit packages;

3. Within 60 days from the effectivity of E.O. 182 as amended by EO No. 392, a portion of the OWWA Health Insurance Fund (HIF) being administered by OWWA shall be transferred to PhilHealth, equivalent to the amount actuarially needed to ensure continuity of Medicare service to OFWs, including the minimum cost of administrative operations for a period of one (1) year;

4. The remaining portion of the OWWA HIF shall be retained and used by OWWA exclusively to fund the management of supplemental health care benefit package of OFWs as may be authorized by the OWWA Board of Trustees.

5. All OWWA Medicare personnel shall, at their option, be transferred to and absorbed by PhilHealth without diminution in compensation.

TITLE II
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 2. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the terms below shall be defined as follows:

1. **Accredited Collecting Agent** – any individual or juridical entity accredited by PhilHealth to receive premium contribution from members.
2. **Act** – Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995.
3. **Benefit Package** – the services that the NHIP offers to members, subject to the classification and qualification provided by PhilHealth.
4. **Compensation** – the remuneration paid regularly for services rendered which shall be composed of basic salary, allowances and other gratuity pay such as bonuses and the like.
5. **Coverage** – the entitlement of an individual, either as a member or as a dependent, to the benefits of the NHIP.
6. **Overseas or Migrant Filipino Workers (OFWs)** – any person, eighteen years of age or above as provided in RA No. 8042, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers' and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, who is to be engaged, or is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which the worker is not a legal resident.
7. **Dependents of Overseas Filipino Workers** - the legal dependents of an OFW who are their:
    a. Legitimate spouse who is not a PhilHealth member;
    b. Unmarried and unemployed legitimate children, including legitimated, acknowledged, and illegitimate children, and legally adopted or step children, below 21 years of age;
    c. Children who are 21 years old or above but suffering from congenital disability, either physical or mental, or any disability acquired that renders them totally dependent on the member for support; and
    d. Parent/s who are 60 years old and above and not enrolled as NHIP member/s.
8. **Enrollment** – the process determined by PhilHealth to enlist individuals as members or dependents covered by the NHIP.
9. **OWWA Health Insurance Fund** – the fund that consist of the premium contributions of OFW members; also known as the OWWA Medicare Fund.
10. **Medicare** – the health insurance program initially implemented under Republic Act No. 6111, as repealed by Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995.
11. **OWWA Medicare Member** – an OFW who is enrolled in the OWWA Medicare Program.
12. **OFW PhilHealth Member** – an OFW who enrolls and meets the requirements for enrollment to the NHIP.
13. **Medicare Eligibility Certificate (MEC)** – the certificate issued to an OFW who registers under the OWWA Medicare Program and which serves as proof of eligibility to the benefits of the program within the validity period indicated therein.
14. **PhilHealth Certificate of Eligibility (PCE)** – the certificate issued to an OFW who registers under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and which serves as proof of eligibility to the benefits of the program within the validity period indicated therein.
15. **National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)** – the compulsory health insurance program of the government as established in the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 7875, as amended) which shall provide universal health insurance coverage and ensure affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for all citizens of the Philippines.
16. **Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA)** – the agency mandated by LOI 537 as amended to protect the interest and welfare of OFWs and their dependents.
17. **Provider** – a practitioner, hospital, or any person or facility engaged in health care services and accredited by the PhilHealth under such terms and conditions as it may prescribe.
18. **PhilHealth Number Card (PNC)** – the card issued to members, bearing a permanent and unique PhilHealth Identification Number.
19. **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)** – the agency mandated by law to administer the NHIP.
20. **Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)** – the agency responsible for optimizing the benefits of the country's overseas employment program.
21. **Premium Contribution** - the amount paid to the NHIP by or in behalf of a member, based on salaries or wages, on household earnings and assets, or on scheduled level of premium subsidy.
22. **Single Period of Confinement** – the series of confinements/procedures for the same illness with the intervals between such confinements not exceeding ninety (90) calendar days within the calendar year.

TITLE III
MEMBERSHIP, CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLECTIONS, BENEFITS AND CLAIMS PROCESSING FUNCTIONS

Section 3. Transfer of Medicare Functions of the OWWA. The following procedures shall be undertaken in the implementation of the transfer of the OWWA Medicare Program to PhilHealth:

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. PhilHealth and OWWA shall promote the NHIP related to OFW health concerns in accordance with the Communication Plan issued by the former.

2. Up to the close of business hours on 28 February 2005, the OWWA may still accept enrollees to the Medicare program. Thereafter, all registration and enrollment shall be filed with and processed by PhilHealth. However, OWWA overseas posts shall continue to accept membership even after 28 February 2005 until otherwise advised by PhilHealth.

3. All existing OWWA Medicare members shall be required to update their records with PhilHealth in a manner as may be prescribed by the latter.

4. Upon enrollment or updating of records, a PhilHealth Number Card (PNC) indicating therein the member's PhilHealth Identification Number (PIN), shall be issued to the OFW member.

5. PhilHealth shall issue a PhilHealth Certificate of Eligibility (PCE) which shall be valid for one (1) year after the payment of annual premium contribution. The PCE shall serve as proof of eligibility within the validity period and shall be used in benefit claims availment.

6. Existing OWWA Medicare members whose MEC have already expired shall be issued a PhilHealth Certificate of Eligibility, upon payment of the required premium contribution.

7. In order for an OFW to register and enroll with PhilHealth, he/she must submit proof of overseas employment requirement and pay the corresponding annual premium contribution.

8. Former/Inactive OFWs may enroll under the Individually Paying Program (Self-employed or Voluntary) of PhilHealth.

9. The database for membership shall be transferred in accordance with the provisions of Section 7, Title VI of this IRR.

B. BENEFITS

1. The transfer shall in no case result in any diminution or discontinuity of the existing benefit packages (Annex "A") of OWWA-Medicare members.

2. PhilHealth shall reimburse the same as follows:

a. In-patient benefit package, both local and overseas;
b. Out-patient benefit packages administered at OWWA service offices and accredited out-patient service providers;

3. Coverage shall take effect upon payment of the required premium contribution until its expiry date as indicated in the member's PCE.

4. PhilHealth shall undertake the accreditation of health care providers pursuant to its accreditation rules;

5. The OFW members and/or their dependents shall be entitled to the benefits of the NHIP on the following conditions:

a. Confinement in a PhilHealth accredited health care institution due to illness or injury requiring hospitalization; or undergoes a surgical procedure on an outpatient basis or receives out-patient benefits in a health care institution accredited to provide such services.

b. Confinements abroad: Provided, that the reasons for confinement above are met and the following requirements are submitted within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of discharge:

1. Official receipt or any proof of payment and/or statement of account from the health care institution where the member/ dependent was confined; and

2. Certification of the attending physician as to the final diagnosis, period of confinement and services rendered.

The benefits to be granted shall be paid in the equivalent local rate based on the tertiary hospital category or the applicable case payment rate and the specialist's rate for professional fee.

c. Availment is within the validity period of the MEC/PCE subject to the condition on single period of confinement:

d. The 45 day room and board allowance for the calendar year has not been consumed as defined in Annex "A" of Title III Section3B.1 of this IRR.

6. To avail of the benefits, the OFW member/dependent shall present the PCE/MEC and such other documents required by PhilHealth.

7. PhilHealth shall continue the existing retainer agreement for outpatient services, subject to the results of its review and evaluation.

8. Upon reaching the age of sixty (60), the member who has paid at least One Hundred Twenty (120) monthly contributions to PhilHealth shall be entitled to benefits of the Non-Paying Program of PhilHealth.

C. COLLECTIONS

1. PhilHealth shall take over collection of premium contributions at the start of business hours on March 1, 2005.

2. Delayed/unremitted Medicare collection of premium contributions from posts prior to March 1, 2005 shall be retained by OWWA.

3. The OWWA may be deputized to collect premium/contributions for PhilHealth subject to an agreement as may be entered into by both agencies.

4. A separate service agreement as an accredited collecting agent shall be made for the purpose.

D. CLAIMS PROCESSING

1. Receiving, processing and payment of claims shall be undertaken by PhilHealth at the start of business hours on March 1, 2005.

2. The OWWA central and regional offices shall forward to PhilHealth all claims received after March 1, 2005.

3. All claims received/in process prior to March 1, 2005 shall be transferred to PhilHealth for processing and the payment thereof shall be billed to OWWA chargeable against the retained funds of OWWA Medicare Fund subject to applicable laws, accounting and auditing rules and regulations. The claims in process referred thereto are those claims received and transferred to PhilHealth that were not paid prior to March 1, 2005 which includes claims that were previously returned to claimants due for completion/ reconsideration;

4. The existing OWWA Medicare Program rules and regulations on the processing of benefit claims shall be effective until otherwise amended by PhilHealth.

TITLE IV
TRANSFER OF OWWA MEDICARE PERSONNEL

Section 4. Transfer of Personnel. OWWA Medicare personnel may opt to transfer to and be absorbed by PhilHealth without diminution in compensation. The following rules and regulations shall be observed:

1. The rules on transfer and hiring/positioning of OWWA Medicare personnel shall follow PhilHealth's organizational and functional structure and staffing. The transfer and absorption of OWWA regular personnel and those under Service Agreements, who are undertaking the OWWA Medicare Program, shall, however, be subject to existing laws, Civil Service Rules and Regulations, as well as PhilHealth's internal policies including its reengineering program.

2. Pursuant to Section 4 of Executive Order No. 182, the PhilHealth Board shall create the appropriate positions in order to absorb the OWWA Medicare personnel who may opt to transfer to PhilHealth;

3. PhilHealth, in coordination with OWWA, shall inform all OWWA Medicare personnel of the created equivalent positions.

4. The OWWA Medicare personnel under service agreements, who opt to transfer, shall maintain their status of employment and shall receive the same benefits as PhilHealth's contractors, without prejudice of applying for vacant plantilla and contractor positions in PhilHealth

5. The OWWA shall transfer the 201 Files of the personnel who opt to transfer.

6. PhilHealth shall earmark a supplemental budget to answer for the difference in the salaries/compensation of those who will be absorbed, chargeable against the funds transferred by OWWA, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

TITLE V
FUND TRANSFER & ACCOUNTING

Section 5. Transfer of Funds.

1. The OWWA shall transfer the amount of Five Hundred Thirty Million Three Hundred Eighty Two Thousand and Four Hundred Forty Six Pesos Only (Php530,382,446.00) broken down as follows: **(Annex B):**

Benefit Payment	P466,288,968
Administrative Expenditures	50,134,000
Capital Expenditures	13,959,478
Total	P530,382,446

2. Upon receipt of the said Funds, PhilHealth shall deposit the same in a separate trust account, which will be used exclusively for the IPP-OFW, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Section 6. Accounting of the Funds. The turnover of the Funds as mentioned in Section 5 shall be managed in accordance with existing applicable laws, rules and regulations and the General Accounting and Auditing Manual (GAAM).

TITLE VI
TRANSFER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS, DATABASES, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND RECORDS

Section 7. Transfer of Information Systems, Databases, Office Equipment and Records. The OWWA shall transfer to PhilHealth all computer software and application systems for Medicare operations, including properties, equipment and records attached to the operations thereof, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

1. The OWWA shall transfer to PhilHealth the computer software and application systems, including office equipment presently being utilized for OWWA - Medicare operations.

2. Also, databases for membership, collection and claims and the like (active members) shall be provided by OWWA to PhilHealth based on the agreed dates in order not to disrupt operations.

3. The IT representatives from OWWA and PhilHealth shall prepare the software applications and databases and ensure the smooth transfer to PhilHealth;

4. Any office equipment and other properties including supplies and materials currently used for the operations of the OWWA Medicare Program shall be transferred to PhilHealth in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

5. The OWWA shall submit to PhilHealth all reference documents pertaining to the administration of the Medicare program for OFWs, such as the Manual of Operations, Compilation of Circulars/Orders, Financial Statements and other issuances that may be deemed relevant.

TITLE VII
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Section 8. Information and Education Campaign. PhilHealth in coordination with the OWWA shall prepare a Communication Plan to inform the public regarding the transfer of functions. A massive information campaign shall be undertaken immediately by both agencies.

TITLE VIII
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Section 9. Transitory Services. The transitory services shall be made as follows:

1. The OWWA Medicare functions and funds as provided for in Title V Section 5 of this IRR shall be transferred to PhilHealth in accordance with existing applicable laws, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

2. PhilHealth and OWWA shall enter into a Service Agreements, if applicable, on the responsibilities and accountabilities on the administration and operation of the OWWA Medicare functions during the transition period:

Section 10. Medicare Eligibility Certificate. OWWA Medicare members can temporarily use their unexpired MEC, which shall serve as a basis for availment until such time that they are issued a PhilHealth Identification Card/PCE. Qualified dependents of OWWA Medicare members can likewise use the said eligibility certificate in the availment of their benefits.

TITLE IX
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 11. Supplemental Amendments/Agreement. Other matters not covered in this Implementing Rules and Regulations may be addressed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the two agencies. The same shall be treated as an integral part of this Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Section 12. Separability Clause. If any provision of this IRR, or application of such provision to any circumstances, is declared invalid, the remainder of this IRR shall not be affected.

TITLE X
EFFECTIVITY

Section 13. Promulgation and Effectivity. This Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 182 dated February 14, 2003 as amended by EO No. 392 dated December 28, 2004 shall be effective 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Signed this 27th of January 2005, at Pasig City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) HON. MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.SC.
DOH Secretary
Chairperson

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., M.SC.
Secretary, PHIC President & CEO
Vice-Chairperson

(Sgd.) USec. LUWALHATI F. PABLO
DSWD Representative
Member

(absent)
HON. ANGELO T. REYES
DILG Secretary
Member

(absent)
HON. PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
DOLE Secretary
Member

(absent)
HON. ARLYN GRACE V. GUICO
Health Care Providers Sector
Member

(Sgd.) HON. MA. ASUNCION E. VILLANUEVA
Self-Employed Sector
Member

(Sgd.) HON. GREGORIO C. DEL PRADO
Labor Sector
Member

(absent)
HON. WINSTON F. GARCIA
GSIS President and CEO
Member

(Sgd.) HON. CORAZON S. DELA PAZ
SSS President and CEO
Member

(Sgd.) HON. SUSANITA G. TESIORNA
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So sue us, dismissed cops dare PNP

PRIMITIVE BUT NOT WANTING
Wooden tops known locally as 'turumpo' lack the sophistication of popular electronic gadgets and toys, but these boys from a middle class community in Manila seem to find them no less exciting.

AFP

By Leila B. Salaverria

MANILA policeman Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo yesterday dared top police officials to file charges against him and other policemen linked to dismissed-National Bureau of Investigation agent Martin Soriano, if the authorities really want them to make an appearance at Camp Crame.

Initially, 11 Manila policemen with alleged links to Soriano were ordered to step down from their posts.

Yesterday, seven more Manila policemen were added to the list.

Soriano had been accused of engaging in kidnapping and extortion activities.

Pedrozo, the highest ranking lawman linked to Soriano so far, said that he and the other policemen relieved from their posts would only turn up at the proper investigative forum.

"If they have evidence against us, they should have no trouble filing charges. If they do, we will face the charges in the proper forum. It seems to me that they are on a fishing expedition," Pedrozo told the INQUIRER.

He also said that they did not want to go to Camp Crame for fear of being ambushed on the way or detained once they got there.

Pedrozo's immediate superior, Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, yesterday gave Pedrozo and the other relieved Manila policemen 24 hours to appear in his office. "I have issued a directive telling them to report in 24 hours, or I will place them on AWOL status and order their arrest," Bulaong said.

The 10 other policemen relieved earlier were Insp. Casan Ali, PO3 Rodolfo Enderina, PO2 Ernie Reyes, PO2 Alexander delos Reyes, PO2 Ronilo Marquez, SPO2 Fernando Cantillas, PO1 Ramil de Guzman, SPO2 Elmer Manalang, PO1 Ronald Rivera and PO2 Arsenio Tercino. Added to the list yesterday were PO3 Gerry Campo, PO2 Ferdinand Cajipe, PO2 Benedict Cruz III, PO2 Hipolito Francia, PO1 Milany Amata, PO1 Angelito Espiritu and PO1 Edgardo Lacson.

In a letter sent earlier to PNP chief Director General Edgar Aglipay, Pedrozo said that he and his companions did not want to be presented in a police lineup as this would constitute trial by publicity.

But the tough-talking Aglipay was singing a different tune in a press conference yesterday after Pedroza and company failed to show up.

"It is the policy of the PNP that people to be presented before the media must first be be subjected to an inquest or a warrant," he told reporters. The "new" policy caught reporters by surprise, considering that police had long been accustomed to parading before the media arrested suspects even without charges filed against them.

In not a few instances, policemen allowed victims and kibitzers to hit handcuffed suspects in full view of reporters and cameramen. Aglipay yesterday claimed he had stopped this practice after the assumed office on Aug. 23, "except for unavoidable circumstances when media persons were already present and we couldn't do anything but present the suspects."

Meanwhile, police asset Mary "Rosebud" Ong yesterday filed kidnapping for ransom complaints against Soriano, almost seven years after she and her mother were allegedly abducted. Ong said she only filed the complaint in the NBI Manila office now because Soriano had already been arrested after a complainant, Caroline Guillen, surfaced with a claim that she had been kidnapped by the former agent. *With Christian V. Esguerra*

DOJ asks NBI help in Vidamos slay probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to help identify and hunt down the killers of Las Piñas Public Attorney's Office chief Teresita Vidamo who was ambushed by four unidentified men on Monday.

Gonzalez said he ordered the NBI to join the police in investigating the murder and to report back to him their findings.

"I want this case solved as soon as possible. She was a member of the DOJ family," Gonzalez said.

Vidamo was killed as she was about to leave her house at Lot 13-B, Casimiro Avenue, Phase I Casimiro Village, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas.

"Whatever the police does, I want the NBI to be there during the investigation," Gonzalez said.

He said that investigators had no leads yet but were trying to look for witnesses who might be able to give a description of Vidamo's killers.

The four suspects allegedly approached Vidamo as she was about to board her L300 van. Two of the men had positioned themselves at the rear of the vehicle and served as backup, while the two others walked up to Vidamo and shot her several times in the head.

The suspects then fled on foot and headed toward Naga Road. Vidamo was rushed to the nearby Zarate Medical Clinic, but she was declared dead on arrival.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Public Order, yesterday urged the Philippine National Police to hasten the investigation of the case, and added that he would personally monitor the case.

Dacer-Corbito case to be heard, finally

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FINALLY, attention.

For years, the double murder case of public relations expert Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito remained idle in court.

Fortunately, Judge Myra Fernandez of the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 18 rediscovered the five-volume case file during an inventory and promptly scheduled the arraignment of suspects on Feb. 21.

Fourth judge

The judge, who assumed her post late last year, will be the fourth judge to hear the case since it was filed in 2001.

A court employee said subpoenas for the hearing had been sent to state prosecutors and defense lawyers, while the National Bureau of Investigation and the National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group were ordered to bring to court the accused in their custody.

There are 17 accused, among them 11 policemen, in the double murder case.

Plea entry

The arraignment would require them to enter either their respective pleas—guilty or not guilty—to the charges of killing Dacer and Corbito on Nov. 24, 2000.

Twenty-two men had initially been indicted in court for kidnapping and double murder, but the Court of Appeals allowed three of them—brothers Jimmy and William Lopez, and Alex Diloy—to turn state witnesses, upon the motion of state prosecutors.

Osang shows up, posts bail

AFTER disappearing for almost two weeks, actress Rosanna Roces showed up before Judge Ricardo Rosario of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 62 yesterday only to post bail and elude arrest.

The judge on Feb. 1 issued a warrant for Roces for her failure to attend hearings on the libel suit filed against her by cosmetic surgeon Vicki Belo.

Lawyer Marjorie de Castro of Branch 62 said Roces came with her lawyer Dave Frederick Escalona at about 8:30 a.m. and posted a P20,000 bail.

Roces, who was casual in her striped violet shirt, jeans and black sandals kept silent while the judge talked to her.

Irene C. Perez

Court twits Makati on Fort

By Philip C. Tubeza

TAGUIG City has won a major legal battle in its boundary dispute with Makati over Fort Bonifacio.

In a 20-page decision on Jan. 31, the appellate court's Special 14th Division affirmed a Pasig court ruling which junked Makati's motion to have a preliminary injunction, which prevented it from taking jurisdiction over the military camp or the "Inner Fort," lifted.

The tribunal rejected Makati's petition to have the Pasig City Regional Trial Court decision overturned.

"Wherefore, premises considered, the petition (of Makati) is hereby denied," said the decision penned by Associate Justice Edgardo Sundiam.

The appellate court said it junked Makati's petition since the city failed to question before the Supreme Court the order of CA Justice Godardo Jacinto on Sept. 11, 1995 which reinstated the preliminary injunction. That order became final and executory on July 2, 1996.

No more reviews

"Therefore, the Jacinto resolution, which has long become final and executory, is now the law of the case on the issue of the propriety of the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction over the 'Inner Fort' and can no longer be modified or reviewed," it said.

Makati had asked the appellate court to lift the injunction since it had admitted before the trial court that it was actually exercising jurisdiction over two barangays—Northside and Southside—inside the sprawling military camp. Makati earlier told the court that it has never attempted to exercise jurisdiction over the disputed camp.

However, the appellate court said that the Pasig City Regional Trial Court issued the preliminary injunction on July 15, 1994, based on the testimony of "two credible witnesses and the numerous documentary evidence… which established that Fort Bonifacio in its entirety is within the territorial jurisdiction of respondent Taguig."

"This limited claim of jurisdiction by petitioner would not affect the validity and scope of the subject injunction which covers the entire 'Inner Fort,'" it said.

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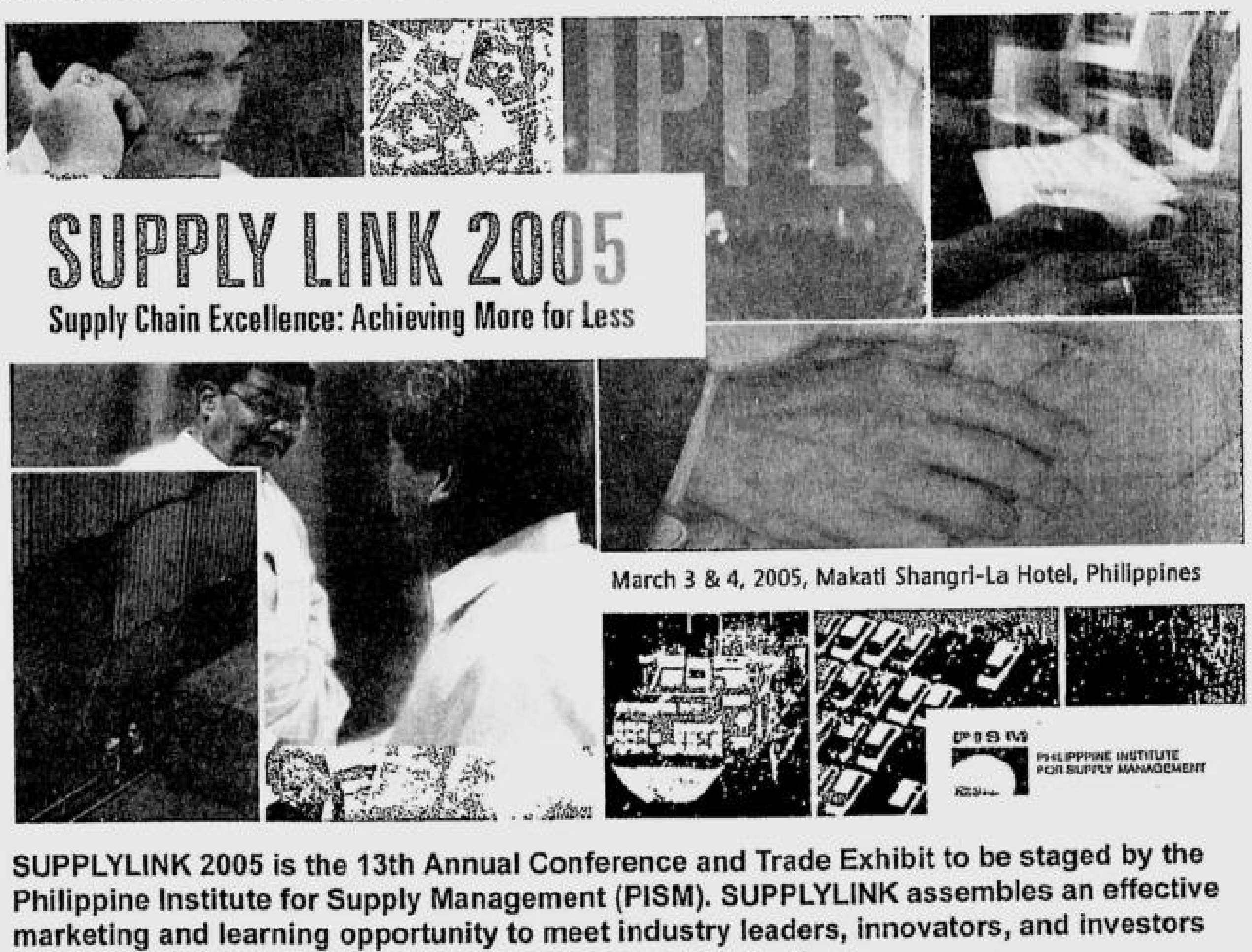
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March 3 & 4, 2005, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Philippines

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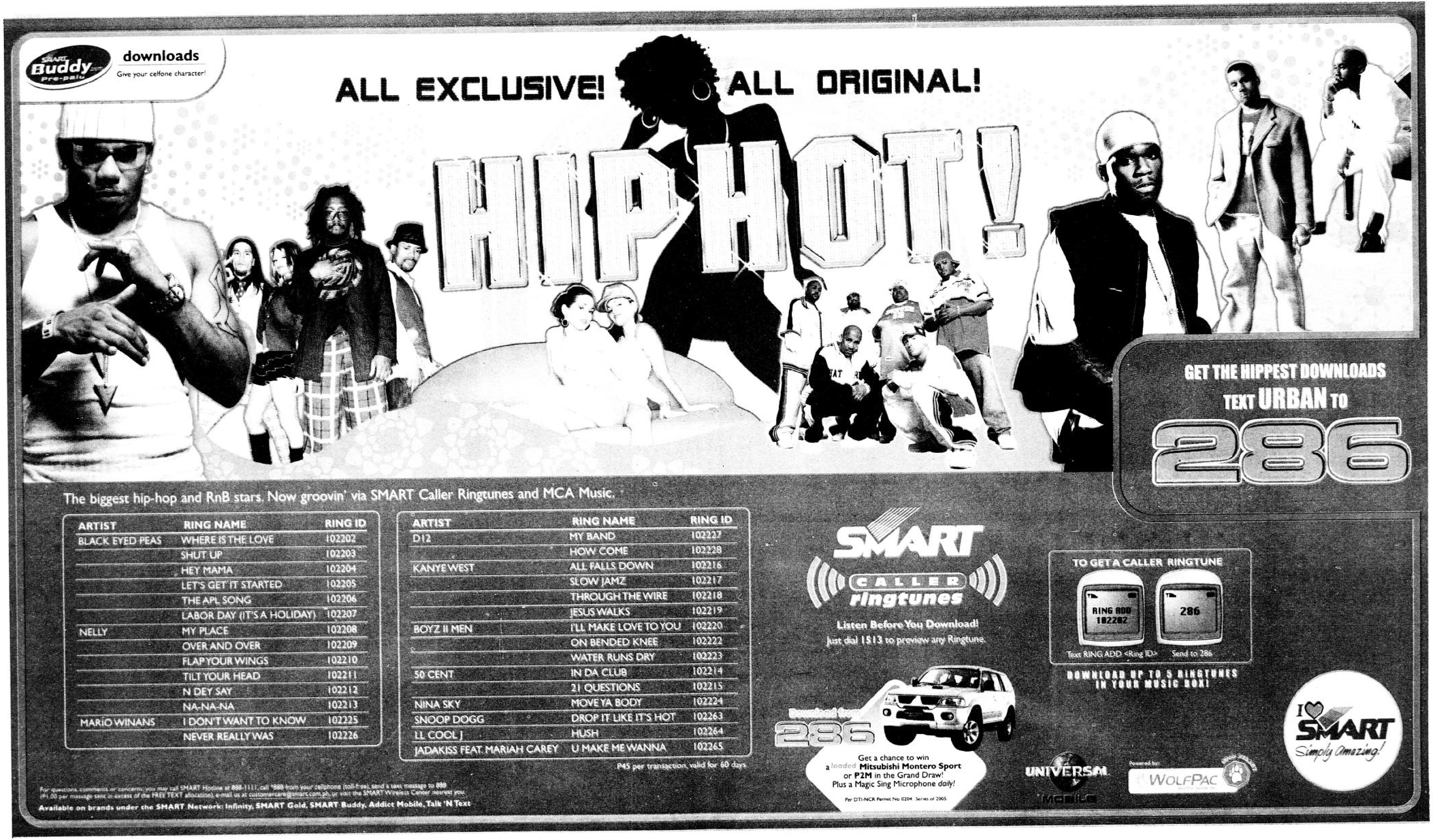
For registration and inquiries, please call Thess Rañon at (63) 634-6632; 638-4024; 634-5942 e-mail her at thess@pism.org or log on to www.pism.org



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RUDY ESPERAS

THE MONTAÑA Jewels and their supporters jubilate after clinching the PBL Open title.

Jewels bask in title glow

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH 54 seconds remaining, Alex Compton looked at the scoreboard and pumped his fist in the air. The outcome was no longer in doubt.

Playing with precision and energy from start to finish, the Montaña Jewels bagged their first ever title in the Philippine Basketball League, ruling the Open Championship by blasting the Welcoat Paintmasters, 79-65, yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

The Jewels leaned on another scorching shooting performance from Finals Most Valuable Player Alex Compton, who finished with a game-high 26 points.

But the Jewels also got gritty plays from veteran playmaker Froilan Baguion, who shot 13 points and pulled off three steals.

"I'm so proud of my players," said coach Robert Sison, whose Jewels led the entire ballgame. "But I'm really so proud to have Alex. I've always wanted him as my player and it's really a dream come true."

Success, though, didn't come easily for the

JEWELS/ A26

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DLSU nears plum

By Musong R. Castillo

RAMIL de Jesus just asked his players not to lose in straight sets.

What he got was one rally for the books.

Playing with utmost resiliency, La Salle came back from two sets down yesterday to post a 27-29, 17-25, 25-22, 25-23, 15-7 victory over Santo Tomas and move within a win of redemption in the Shakey's V-League.

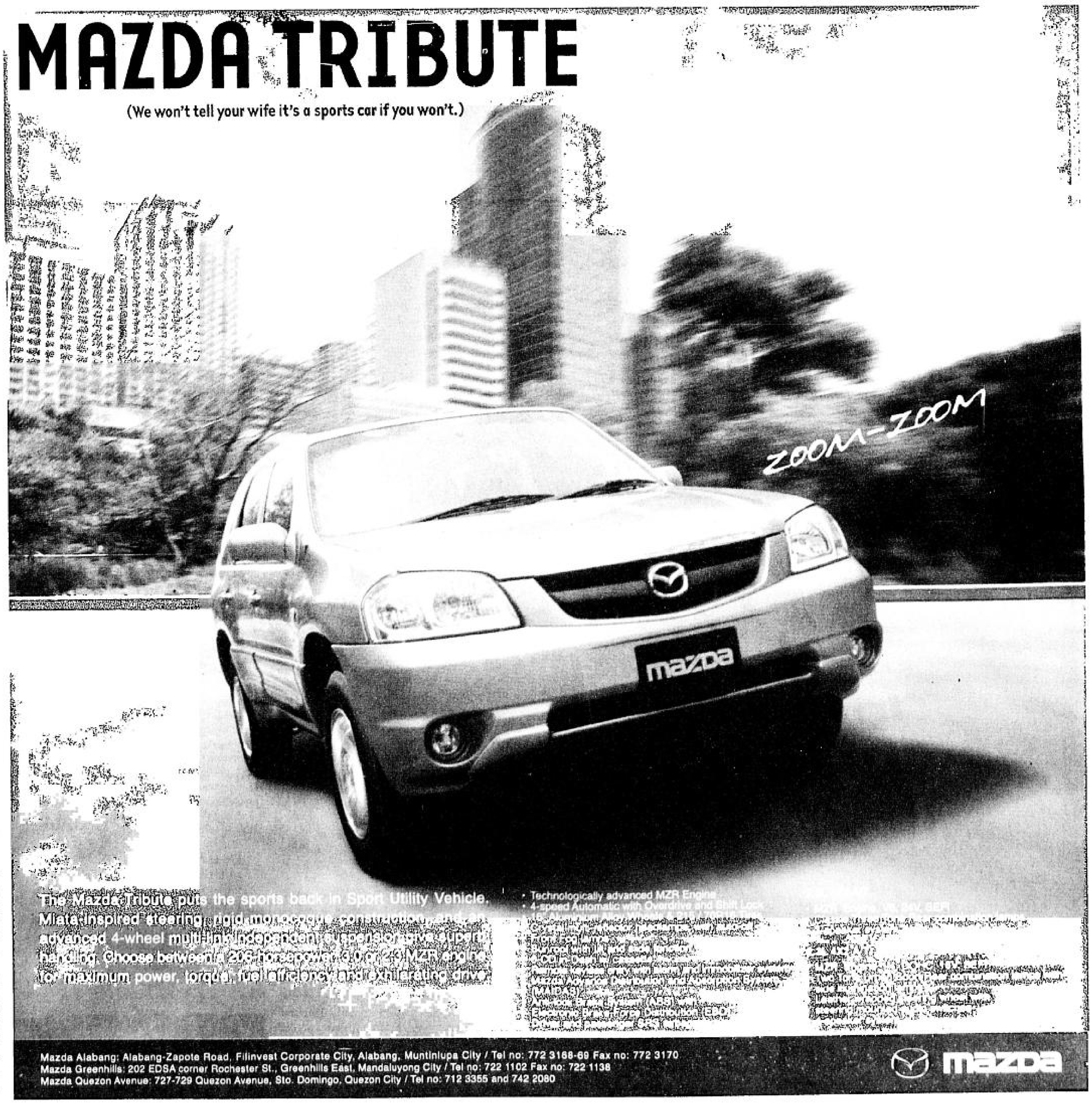
The Lady Archers refused to fold up and die after losing the first two sets, leaning on Maureen Penetrante and Michelle Carolino to pound out the win in two hours and 34 minutes that set up a big celebration.

Not only did La Salle take a 1-0 lead, it moved the Lady Archers to within a win of returning a favor to the defending champion Tigresses, who swept them in the finals of this league's first conference last year.

"I simply told my players that we could not lose in three sets," De Jesus said. "It motivated them and we were able to come back strong and win."

Roxanne Pimentel limped out of the floor after the first two points of the fifth set because of a slight right ankle sprain, and this put the UST offense in disarray.

Santo Tomas coach August Sta. Maria, obviously disappointed at the way he lost, said that Pimentel will definitely suit up for Game 2 Sunday at 3:30 p.m. also at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.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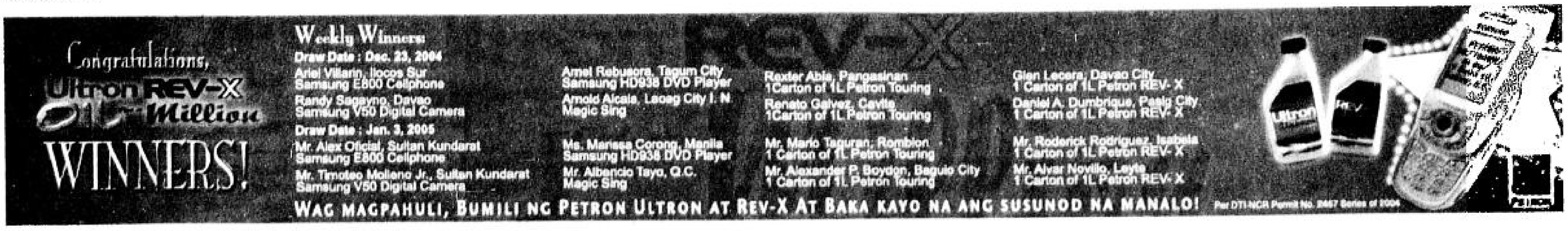
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Kings eye clincher in Game 6 tonight

GAME TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
(Game 6 best-of-seven Finals)
7:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text

Game 1—TNT d. Ginebra, 89-71
(forfeited in favor of Ginebra)
Game 2—Ginebra d. TNT, 106-105
Game 3—TNT d. Ginebra, 102-66
Game 4—TNT d. Ginebra, 90-85
Game 5—Ginebra d. TNT, 95-85

MARK Caguioa has been making bold predictions in the playoffs with little success.

That's why in Game 6 of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup Finals between Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text tonight, Caguioa would rather keep mum than commit the same mistake.

After beating the Phone Pals in Game 5 and securing a 3-2 edge in the series, the Gin Kings will be looking for the clincher of the best-of-seven championship and their second straight title.

"I have been making false predictions lately," said Caguioa after leading the Kings to a 95-85 double overtime win over the Phone Pals in Game 5 Wednesday. "We'll try to get it on Friday (today) but for now, I just hope I could smile with my teammates after the game."

But egged on if he could guarantee a Game 6 victory, Caguioa couldn't control blurting out what was on his head and silently said yes.

Game 6 of the Finals will be aired by ABC-5 at 7:30 p.m.

"They (Kings) should be aiming for that. They should not be aiming to finish it in Game 7 because they're at an advantage right now," said TNT coach Joel Banal, referring to Caguioa's forecast. "What we have to do is to prove them wrong and extend the series."

History will be on the side of the Gin Kings as nine of the last 10 teams since 1999 which took a 3-2 lead in a best-of-seven series after a 2-2 split went on to win the championship, seven of the nine clinching it in Game 6.

Since the best-of-seven Finals was introduced in the 1982 Reinforced Conference, 15 of 21 teams which won Game 5 after 2-all, went on to snare the title, nine of the 15 seizing it in Game 6.

The Phone Pals have no recourse but to deal with history by zeroing in on the liabilities of the Gin Kings. Apart from missing many freethrows, the Fiesta conference titlists are also turnover-prone, averaging 20 errors each game.

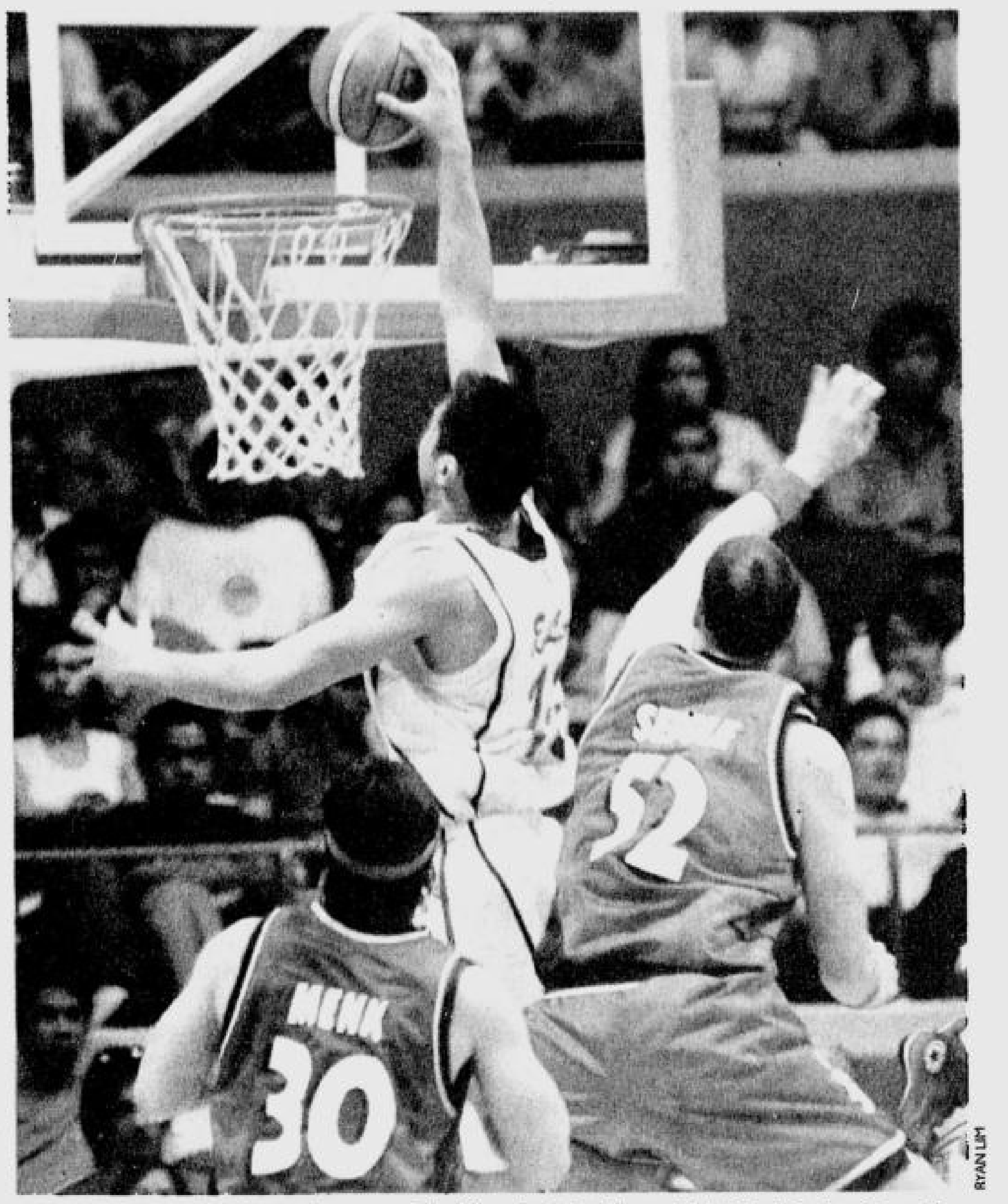
Jimmy Alapag, who had gone 1 of 10 from three-point range in Game 5, is hoping to recover his shooting touch and blend with Willie Miller in the backcourt.

"Basically, they already know what we're going to do," said Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen. "But we also know their style so it will all come down to execution."

The TNT defense in the middle will be focused on Eric Menk, allowing Andy Seigle and Romel Adducul more elbow room. Though missing 19 of his 22 foul shots in the series, Adducul has been compensating on blocks and rebounds. Adducul blocked Miller and Telan in the dying seconds that allowed the game to go into overtime in Game 5. *June Navarro*

Villarosa dies, 48

FORMER Shell team manager Bobby Villarosa passed away after a massive heart attack yesterday at the University of Perpetual Help hospital in Las Piñas. He was 48. Villarosa was Shell team manager in the late '90s before being replaced by team governor Bobby Kanapi in 2002. Villarosa was part of the Shell team which won the 1999 All-Filipino title.


RYAN LIM

MARK Telan of Talk 'N Text slams over Gin Kings Andy Seigle and Eric Menk during Game 5.

Collegiate Champion's League begins

THE THIRD Collegiate Champions League kicks off today with two games on tap at the San Beda College gym.

San Beda, one of the top four teams of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, tests the mettle of University of Manila in the main game at 4 p.m.

University of the Philippines, a last-minute replacement for De La Salle University, takes on Emilio Aguinaldo College in the first game at 2 p.m.

Philippine coach Chot Reyes has been invited as guest of honor in the one-of-a-kind tournament that pits the country's top collegiate teams in a knockout format.

NCAA champion Philippine Christian University, the top seed, won't see action until Feb. 24.

Defending champion Far Eastern University, runner-up in the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines, is ranked second followed by University of Perpetual Help and Ateneo de Manila in that order.

UAAP titlist La Salle has begged off from the tournament due to fatigue.

Still, the tournament boasts a high-powered cast that includes top squads from the South.

University of Visayas is tipped to give Manila-based squads a run for their money.

Completing the 16-team cast are University of Mindanao, University of Southern Philippines, West Negros College, University of Cebu, University of San Jose Recoletos, Letran and University of the East.

Rey Gamboa, chair of the organizing committee, said the league hopes to provide a venue to hone the country's future stars.

Chino Trinidad, the Champions League commissioner, said he expects lively and spirited competition owing to the unique format.

The champion team will receive P500,000 which goes directly to the school's sports development program. The runner-up earns P150,000 while the third placer gets P50,000.

Cebu will host four games set Feb. 13 and Feb. 15 at the Cebu Coliseum.

Games will be covered live and on a delayed basis by government channel NBN 4. Admission is free in all venues.

Lady Archers capture NCRAA diadem

THE LA SALLE Lady Archers let their three aces take charge in the final minutes as they outplayed the Philippine Maritime Institute Lady Admirals, 67-62, yesterday to clinch the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) women's basketball crown.

Kristine Prado hit a game-high 22 points in leading the Lady Archers to their fifth crown at the end of their best-of-three finals showdown with the Lady Admirals at the Pasay Sports Complex.

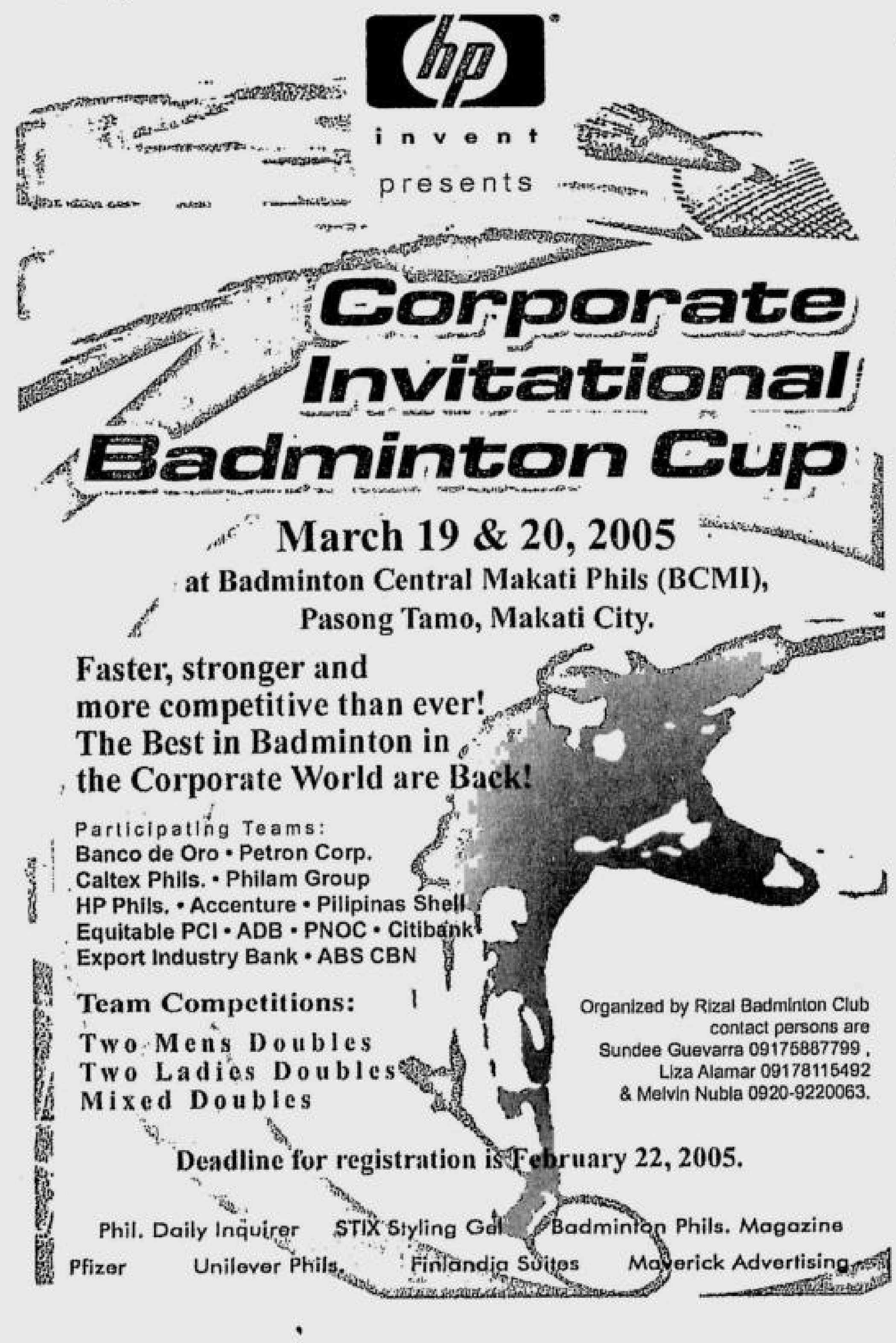
Jan Laureola fired 20 points, including a layup and three of six crucial freethrows in the final minute which allowed the Lady Archers to end the series at 2-1.

Kreme Huelar banged in 15 points, with one of her freethrows at the endgame enabling the Lady Archers to grab the upperhand at 62-61.

La Salle women's team coach Mon Jose got his first title since handling the team last year.

The Lady Archers held the crown from 2000 to 2003 under Juno Sauler and Dax Castellano, and then lost it last year to the Lyceum Lady Pirates.

Janno Galabin scored 19 points to lift the St. Francis Dovelets past Olivarez High School, 70-62, for the junior crown. It was the Dovelets' sixth title in nine years under coach Christopher Villamayor.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Jewels bask in title . . .

From page A25

Jewels, whose only noteworthy finish in the last seven years was third place in 2001.

The Jewels were on the brink of bagging the title in Game 4 last Tuesday. But the Paintmasters foiled their bid in the final minute for an 80-77 win.

"I told my teammates that we should fulfill our destiny," said Compton.

It was another disappointment for the Paintmasters, who settled for a runner-up finish for the second straight conference.

Holding a 42-27 lead in the third period, the Jewels pulled away with Compton drilling 10 straight points, including back-to-back triples for a 52-39 advantage.

The Jewels went on to lead by as many as 16 points, 57-41.

"We really made sure to play strong in the third quarter," said Baguion, adding the Paintmasters were noted for their strong game at the start of the second half.

Leo Najorda finally sparked a Welcoat comeback in the opening minutes of the final period, shooting seven unanswered points that cut Montaña's lead to 59-53.

But Baguion and Compton's back-to-back triples quickly stopped the rally and put the Jewels in front again, 65-53.

The Jewels opened the ballgame with a 9-0 run. They quickly zoomed to an early 15-point edge, 22-7, highlighted by four three-pointers from Erick Dela Cuesta, Paul Guerrero and Ariel Capus.

Najorda led Welcoat's charge with 20 points.

Welcoat star Anthony Washington struggled offensively for the second straight game. The 6-foot-7 Fil-Am shot only two points and went 0-for-3 at the floor after stellar performances early in the finals series.

The scores:

MONTAÑA 79—Compton 26, Baguion 13, Capus 11, Dela Cuesta 10, Salvador 6, Magpayo 6, Guerrero 5, Espiritu 2, Mercado 0, Vergara 0, Juntilla 0.

WELCOAT 65—Najorda 20, Dy 13, Coching 12, Ortiguerra 6, Tolomia 6, Tan 4, Washington 2, Reyes 2, Sta. Maria 0, Gamboa 0, Estrada 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 38-31, 59-46, 79-65

SPORTSWATCH

Lakers vs Pistons on STAR Sports

IT'S A rematch of last season's Finals when the Los Angeles Lakers visit the defending champion Detroit Pistons in the NBA today at 9 a.m. (replay at 9 p.m.) live on STAR Sports. Detroit stunned LA as the Pistons defeated the Lakers, 4–1, in their best-of-seven championship series last year. The NBA airs live on STAR Sports every Friday and on ESPN every Saturday, Hong Kong/Singapore Time.

Taguig fun run gets Patafa support

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Track and Field Association has extended its support to the 1st Forward Taguig 5-kilometer fun run which will hit the road on March 13. Contestants can register at the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association offices at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Vito Cruz Street, Manila. Entry fee is P150. The race will start at 6 a.m. at the Heritage Park along Bayani Road in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. It is open to all amateur runners aged 17 and above. For registration, go to Heritage Park; project director Boyet Antonio at LTA Building, Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or Taguig Youth and Sports Development director Peewee Vasquez.

Ramirez, Keon, De Vega Scoop guests

WHAT the Philippine Sports Commission has accomplished after one month under officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez will be the topic in today's SCOOP sa Kamayan session at the Kamayan Restaurant on Padre Faura Street in Malate. Also invited are former Gintong Alay director and present national training director Michael Keon and former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado, head of the athletes' commission. Today's session starts at 11 a.m. and will be aired live over Sports Radio.

Neg. Occ, Cebu take Visayas openers

NEGROS Occidental beat Iloilo, 4-2, while Cebu defeated Negros Oriental, 3-2, Wednesday in first-day hostilities of the qualifying rounds of the 2005 PFF/adidas National Men's Championship at the San Julio Realty Football Field in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. Negros Occidental took an early 2-0 lead with goals by Deney Salazar (18th minute) and Redric Viliran (20th) but Iloilo came back with two straight goals by Kinley Delgado on the 31st and 38th minutes to end the half at 2-2. After the break, Negros got going with a second goal by Viliran on the 57th minute while Ruffy Llorente added to the final score just a minute before the whistle to seal the Ilonggos' fate.

Kintanar's Cup slated tomorrow

HANDSOME prizes await winners of the Kintanar's Cup, a novice/non-rated darts tournament set tomorrow at the Pool Spot Sports Café at No. 142 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan, Metro Manila. Pool Spot Sports Café and friends put up a guaranteed cash prize of P12,000 plus trophies for the top eight teams. Supporting the event are San Miguel Beer, Terton Craft and Dartware. The event, which is the first of a series, is organized by Aldo Angeles and wife Norma Kintanar, daughter of the late Romy Kintanar, a TV and radio sportscaster who was also a competitive darter. For inquiries, contact Angeles at 0919-4257505 of the DCP telefax 8436456 c/o director Amante Santos.

Chiang Kai Shek gains semis

HOST Chiang Kai Shek completed the semifinal cast via a 61-51 triumph over Hope Christian High School recently at the close of the 29th Hitachi-Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball League elimination round at the Chiang Kai Shek Gym. Chiang Kai Shek battles unbeaten St. Stephen High School in the Final Four. The other semifinal pits last year's runner-up, Xavier School, against UNO High School. Paul Lim and Edison Yang delivered to improve CKS's elimination-round record at 2-6. Lim clipped 21 points and 10 rebounds while Yang added 18 points and 10 rebounds. St. Stephen swept the eliminations, 8-0, following a 96-59 rout of Hope Christian School.

RACING
AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Brutus 2. Pristine Water 3. Secret Agent 4. Genie in Disguise
Race 2—1. Express Strike 2. God is Good 3. Master Kenneth
Race 3—1. Here I Come 2. Rindo Maker 3. Friendly Lover
Race 4—1. Split Decision 2. Uncle Buck 3. Run Like D Wind 4. Fortissimo
Race 5—1. Sa Wakas 2. Caden Dance 3. Firehouse
Race 6—1. Coolmore 2 Wynona Raider 3 En Carta 4. Valiente
Race 7—1. Dow Jones 2. Top of D Line 3. Apex 4. Cause of Our Joy
Race 8—1. Lucky Strike/Smooth Strike 2. Hit the Wire 3. Ginja 4 Sky King
Race 9—1. Magic Dave 2. Secret Quest 3. Sand Splash 4. Star Emblem 6. Tervalac

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLEGE SYSTEM
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NCRAA CHAMPS: Players, officials and coaches of the triumphant Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals whoop it up after snaring their first ever NCRAA men's basketball title. They swept the Colegio de San Lorenzo Griffins in two games.

MARS Pucay (seated) listens to teammate Jose Roy's advice during the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am yesterday . JESS YUSON

Japanese pair grabs lead at halfway mark

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, Cavite—Japanese Yoshinaga Tomokasu and Takao Yusuku assembled a second straight two-over 73 yesterday to seize a one stroke lead over the Mars Pucay-Jose Roy team halfway through the Konica Minolta Pro-Am.

A seven-year pro from Kumamoto, Yoshinaga and his amateur partner Yusuku gunned down three birdies against the same number of bogeys and a double bogey over the demanding Langer layout of The Riviera here for a 146 total.

"We played good again in a tough course," said the 27-year-old Yoshinaga in broken English.

Pucay-Roy had a chance to share the lead for the second consecutive round only to three-putt the 18th for a 75 and 147, two up on defending champions Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco, who managed a 77.

Richard Abaring and amateur partner Jose Iñigo turned in a 75 and occupied fourth spot with a 150 aggregate, one ahead of the Noli Kempis-Kin Chang-hoi (74) and Roger Retuerto—Erwin Vinluan (72) tandems.

The winds again blew hard over the par-71, 7,057-yard layout with none among the 118 teams seeing action managing to match par.

After an 80 on Tuesday, Koreans Lee Sung-ki and Jung Hyung yu signed for a 72 and jumped to solo seventh spot at 152 even as seven teams tied for eighth, the Solomon Gines—Artemio Murakami tandem among them.

Gines-Murakami submitted a 73 in the first round but ballooned to an 80 after two double bogeys, six bogeys and a single birdie in a 40-40 round.

Tied with Gines and Murakami were Erwin Arcilla and Tonton Asistio with 76 and 77, Ramil Bicera-Jay Bayron 75-78, Rey Pagunsan-Bobby Iñigo 77-76 and Ruel Banares-Marvin Dumandan 75-78 in the event having Konica Minolta Business Technologies Corp. of Japan as title sponsor.

Club bet Danny Zarate, in partnership with The Riviera president Danny Pizarro, posted a second straight 77 for 154, good for a share of 15th spot with the father and son team of Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan, who rebounded with a 75 after a 79 Tuesday.

Samsung tilt grand finals begins today

TWO national amateur champions will take the challenge of a talented cast of qualifiers as they determine who's the best of the best in the grand finals of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the windswept Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas, on Feb. 12-16.

This year's finale promises to be the most exciting in years as Jayvie Agojo, who pulled off an exciting win in last month's Philippine Ladies Open at Manila Golf, and Jun Bernis, the reigning Philippine men's amateur champion, are both in the elite field.

In the men's division, Bernis is set for a tough outing against former nationals Boyet Saragoza and Jay Bayron as well as Raymund Sangil and Korean ace Kim Chang Hoi with Pagunsan a doubtful entry because of a prior commitment.

The short series will also put the pressure on Agojo. She battles the likes of former national players Aileen Yao, Millet Villaroman and Lina de Guzman in the ladies Class A of the tourney which also has Philippines Airlines as the official airline, Tokyo Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, adidas TaylorMade, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin-E as its other sponsors. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

"This showdown involves all the best the country's pool of talents has to offer," said Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group.

Mt. Malarayat, site of the coming Philippine Open, remains one of the most challenging local courses which require consistency throughout. Malarayat's long fairways, tough greens, and plenty of hazards will require players to put most of the 14 clubs in their bag to good use.

The qualifiers:

Championship: Kim Chang Hoi, Raymond Sangil, J. Pagunsan, J. Bayron, B. Saragoza, J. Bernis, Eric Deen

Men's Class A: IG Gutierrez, Manfred Guanko, Noel Lopez, Junjun Grandeza, Pitong Quiocho, Nelson Eslao, Raymund Garcia

Men's Class B: Marco Olives, Gabriel Villareal, Melanio Siao, Dino Yap, Emil Alviar, Giron Sagat, Mike Jo

Men's Class C: Archie Lava, Allan Alegre, Mark Huertas, Glen Ching, Art dela Fuente, Raul Molintas, Nestor Mendoza

Men's Class D: Lee Hwa Jun, Romeo Ignacio, Jimmy Umpa, Eloy Olmoguez, Joven Papio, Peter Go, Frank Bejar

Ladies Class A: Millet Villaroman, Aileen Yao, Gigi Frokjaer, Chihiro Ikeda, Lina de Guzman, Matet Salivio, Agojo

Ladies Class B: Paulina Sotto, Cyna Rodriguez, Joanna Pajara, Imee Garcia, Rita Horan, Gilda Medestomas, Sandra Smits

Ladies Class C: Rita Dalisay, Theresa Arevalo, Jane Alvarez, Mereane Siason, Mijung Yoon, Sharyn Hudson, Gina Yap

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Let's have a break

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ATHLETES, like every mortal on earth, need a break. The choice of break is, of course, according to one's own liking.

Me?

I usually hunt for music places. Thus, I'm all set for the Golden Legends show, starting tomorrow, Feb. 12. The Golden Legends are Chris Montez, John Ford Coley and Gordon Waller. They will perform at Aliw Theater Feb. 12 and at Hard Rock Café-Makati Feb. 13 and Feb. 14.

What, tickets are all gone?

"No problem, partner," said Quinito Henson. "You and your loved ones are assured of seats. Our friend Steve (O'Neal) will move heaven and earth just to have you with us, especially on Valentine's Day."

Steve O'Neal happens to be the radio name of Danee Samonte, a noted record collector and the country's foremost assembler of the biggest stars of the Sixties. Already, O'Neal has brought in the likes of The Searchers, Friends of Distinction, Pat Upton of Spiral Starecase and Chad and Jeremy last year.

For Monday's Valentine treat (Feb. 14), O'Neal will present Montez and Gordon Waller, the main voice behind the famous Peter and Gordon sound. Before that, Gordon will team up with Coley and Montez at Aliw Theater tomorrow, Feb. 12.

"It's the best of three worlds," said O'Neal. "Gordon is British. John is American and Chris is Hispanic. Their music is distinct. We all loved it back then and we still love it now."

Coley came into the picture when Dennis Yost of Classics IV fame withdrew for personal reasons. Coley was a hit here last year when he performed at the one-night-only sellout show at the Big Dome. My dear Aya loves Coley dearly.

Montez's top sellers include "Call Me," "The More I See You" and "Time After Time." His hit, "There Will Never Be Another You," was recorded locally with Tagalog lyrics by Tito Mina and Ella del Rosario of Hotdog.

Coley's hits include "I'd Really Love To See You Tonight," "Where Do I Go From Here" and "Love Is The Answer."

Of the three, I identify fully with Gordon, whose kilometric name is Gordon Trueman Riviere Waller.

Gordon's partnership with Peter in the Sixties forms part of my growing up years.

Peter's sister, Jane Asher, was Sir Paul McCartney's girlfriend. That's why McCartney wrote several songs for Peter and Gordon, notably "World Without Love," "Nobody I Know," and "Woman."

Peter could not come for the show as he is busy with his job as a record producer and VP of Sony Music. He has managed several artists, including James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt and Randy Newman. The last time Peter and Gordon sang together was an impromptu duet at Gordon's wedding reception in 1998.

Dave McAleer, writing in the book "Beatboom," said Peter and Gordon were the best-known male twosome in the mid-1960s, excluding Batman and Robin.

In 1966, Peter and Gordon performed at the Big Dome and Gordon met a girl named Jen. Gordon said he wants to meet Jen again. So, wherever you are Jen, please show up? You can call 5276007 or e-mail sports@philstar.net.ph or also@inquirer.com.ph so O'Neal can arrange front row seats for you and your family.

"I personally had a great time in Manila," said Gordon in his e-mail to Quinito. "I remember one particular girl called Jen who was very young and very beautiful. She's probably got 500 kids now."

Since O'Neal could not afford my fee, Gordon will instead pair with John Lesaca, accompanied by the popular four-man group Area One led by John Lesaca himself.

Nope, no hard feelings at all, John. Who knows, I'll team up with Peter instead when the time comes?

Don't miss the show, fellas. Try calling 891-9999 or 893-4661. *Baka sakaling may tickets pa.*

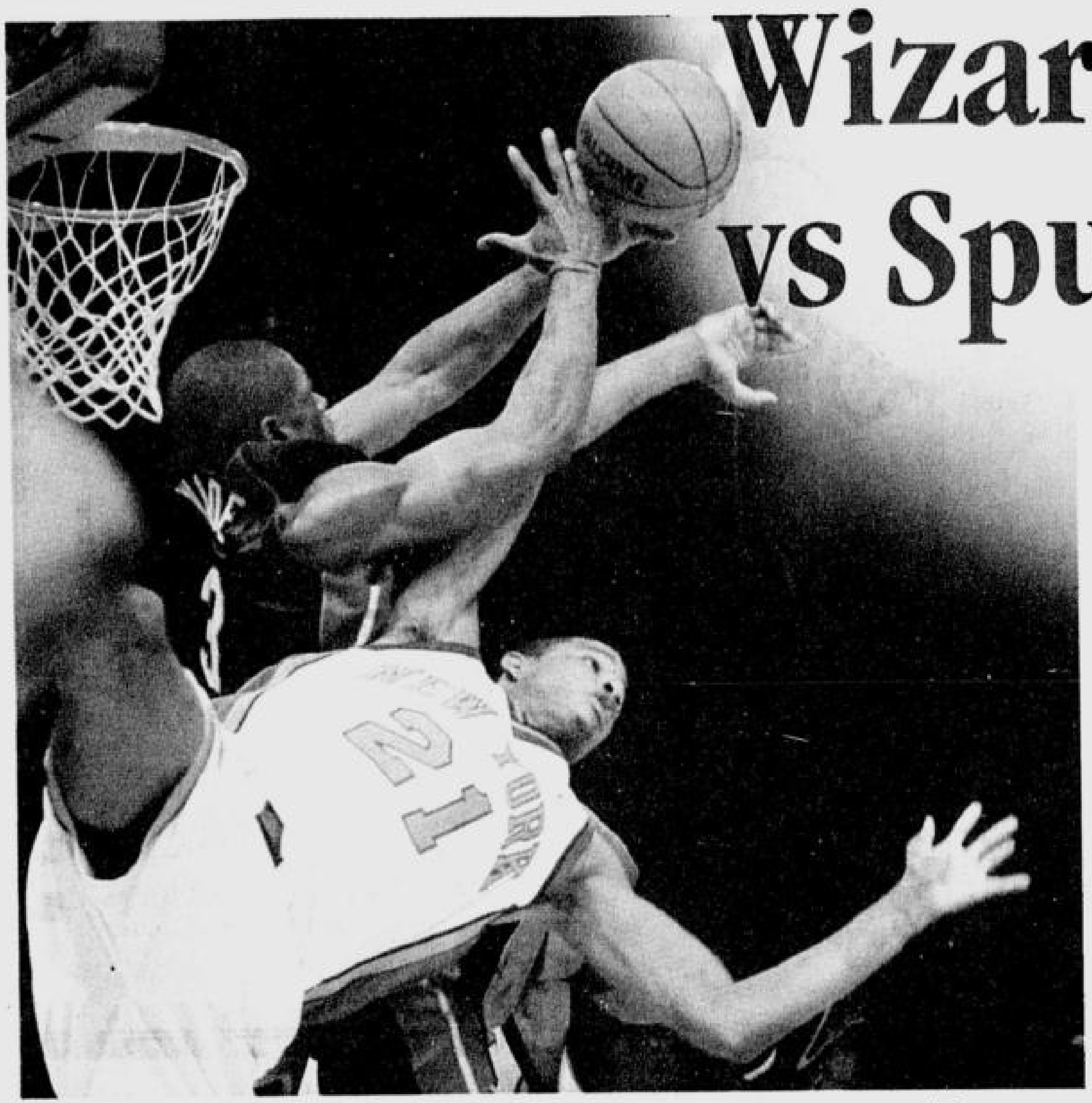
"This is a must-see show," said O'Neal. "This might never happen again."

I second the motion.

***

FASTBREAK. Doing a fantastic job manning the Grappa's delicacies at Riviera in the ongoing Konica Minolta National Pro/Am is Maricor Flores, a trusted lieutenant of U-Bix top honcho Bert Bravo like Lee Altavas. Lee, as always, is Kabsat Bert's secret weapon in the Pro/Am whom Commodore Danny Pizarro (ret.), the organizing committee chair, fondly calls the silent "Iron Butterfly." The Pro/Am has also been in "high spirits" since Day One as chief brewmaster Joel Loresco keeps the Pivo Praha brew flowing. Cheers!

Wizards weave magic vs Spurs; Heat prevail



KNICKS guard Trevor Ariza (21) slams into Miami's Dwayne Wade as he attempts a potential game-winning layup at the end of regulation. The Heat won in overtime, 116-110. REUTERS

TORONTO—Antawn Jamison and Gilbert Arenas confirmed their All-Star credentials by powering the host Washington Wizards to a 95-87 win over the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs Wednesday.

Named a day earlier for their first All-Star Game, Jamison grabbed a season-high 35 points and added 11 rebounds while Arenas had 24 points as the Wizards stretched their unbeaten run to three games.

The Spurs were without Tim Duncan for the second successive game, the double NBA MVP continuing to nurse a sprained ankle.

San Antonio's Tony Parker picked up 22 points, nine assists and eight rebounds as his team slumped to its first loss in six outings.

The Spurs remain top of the overall standings but now share first place with the Phoenix Suns, the two having identical 39-11 records.

In East Rutherford, Lamar Odom had 16 points, including four in overtime, and equaled a career-high 19 rebounds to spark the Los Angeles Lakers to a 104-103 victory over the New Jersey Nets which snapped a three-game losing skid.

Jumaine Jones contributed 20 points for the Lakers, who were again without Kobe Bryant due to a badly sprained right ankle.

New Jersey's Jason Kidd notched a triple-double for the second consecutive night, with 28 points, 12 assists and 12 boards.

In New York, Dwyane Wade collected 30 points, Damon Jones had a season-high 24 and Shaquille O'Neal chipped in with 16 points and 13 rebounds to carry the Miami Heat to a 116-110 overtime win over the Knicks.

Stephon Marbury had a game-high 36 points for the Knicks, who have lost 13 of their last 15 contests.

In Philadelphia, Dahntay Jones seized a career-high 23 points as the streaking Memphis Grizzlies squeezed past the 76ers 98-95 to post their fifth victory in six games.

Allen Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, had 38 points and 10 assists for the 76ers.

In Boston, Paul Pierce recorded 25 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Celtics rallied in the fourth quarter to edge the Los Angeles Clippers, 94-89.

Elton Brand had a game-high 30 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost three straight on the road.

In Houston, Tracy McGrady registered 24 points and Yao Ming contributed 21 points and 10 rebounds as the Rockets beat the Chicago Bulls, 105-92, to collect a season-high fifth win in a row.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Boston 94, LA Clippers 89; Indiana 94, Charlotte 87; Memphis 98, Philadelphia 95; Washington 95, San Antonio 87; Milwaukee 110, Toronto 107; LA Lakers 104, New Jersey 103 (ot); Miami 116, NY Knicks 110 (ot); Minnesota 98, Denver 92; Houston 105, Chicago 92 ; New Orleans 91, Portland 80

Vijay stakes Pebble title against Phil

TORONTO—World number one Vijay Singh will have to contend with an in-form Phil Mickelson when he defends his title at this week's Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Mickelson, the US Masters champion, arrives at the picturesque Monterey Peninsula venue in California fresh from a five-stroke victory at last week's Phoenix Open that included a brilliant 11-under-par 60 in the second round.

"I can't wait to get back on the golf course," said left-hander Mickelson after clinching his 24th win on the PGA Tour.

"I'm excited about the way I'm playing. I'm excited about hitting chips, or putts, or tee shots. I can't wait to get out to the course and practise.

"Vijay didn't play his best last week. I hope to have a chance to go head-to-head with him this week. You know, we've played a lot against each other there. It's a fun challenge, but I don't look at it quite like that." Singh, however, will be back in welcome surroundings, having produced top 10-finishes in five of his last six starts at Pebble Beach.

His three-shot victory last year, coming after he birdied the first three holes in the final round, set up one of the greatest years in the history of the game.

The smooth-swinging Fijian ended the season with nine PGA Tour titles, more than $10 million in prize money and as the game's leading player, having ended Tiger Woods' five-year reign at the top last September.

Singh then made a fast start to his 2005 campaign by winning last month's Sony Open in Hawaii, although his form has dipped slightly in his last two events.

At last month's Buick Invitational, he stayed in contention until a three-over 75 in the final round left him 11 strokes adrift of winner Woods.

At Phoenix, an event he had won twice, Singh did not break par until rallying with a third-round 66 and a closing 68 left him in a share of 11th place.

The 34-year-old Mickelson, who traditionally makes a blistering start to each season, needed two tournaments to find top gear but is now in prime form.

The victory in Phoenix, his first since last year's US Masters, was achieved with the biggest winning margin of his career despite an opening two-over 73.

The world number four will be looking to improve on last year's effort at Pebble Beach where he finished third, four shots behind Singh after vying with the Fijian over the previous rounds.

The revered $5.3 million event is played over three breath-taking layouts—Pebble Beach, Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills—and will make a sharp contrast to last week's event in Phoenix, which is one of the rowdiest locations on the tour.

Playing conditions will also be very different with the golfers leaving the dry Arizona desert for the generally soggy unsettled weather along the Monterey Peninsula. *Reuters*

Red Bull sets revamp

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE ILL-STARRED Red Bull team will be going through changes in this year's PBA Reinforced Conference which fires off next month.

"But it will be a change for the better," said team owner George Chua in an interview, adding that management has taken steps to strengthen the organization and make it responsive to the wishes of its loyal supporters and the basketball public. The changes include hiring new players, trading the old ones and beefing up the Barakos' individual skills by acquiring Nathaniel Addison, an American physical conditioner with multi-pronged credentials. Yeng Guiao will be retained as head coach although there will be a revamp in the coaching staff.

"In spite of a bad year in the 2004-2005 season, we are still happy over Red Bull's achievement since joining the Philippine Basketball Association in 2000," stressed the soft-spoken Chua. "So far, so good."

In 4-1/2 years or 13 conferences, Red Bull won two Commissioner's Cup championships, one runner-up trophy, one third-place award and two fourth-place finishes.

Competing with a rookie-laden team, Red Bull won its first ever title in only its fifth conference in 2001 to become the fastest expansion team in the history of the PBA. In the last Fiesta Conference, Red Bull placed second to Barangay Ginebra in the title series despite a depleted lineup.

"Coach Yeng and the boys gave their best and made it to the finals even though the team was wounded by import and health problems," said the sportsminded Chua. "Our team played well but our rivals were simply hungrier."

Compared with seven other teams that made it to the PBA finals since 2000, the Red Bull owner said his team scored the best winning percentage of 67, succeeding twice in three attempts, and tied with Alaska and Coca-Cola with the second most number of titles with two, next to San Miguel Beer, which has three.

Sports runs in George Chua's blood.

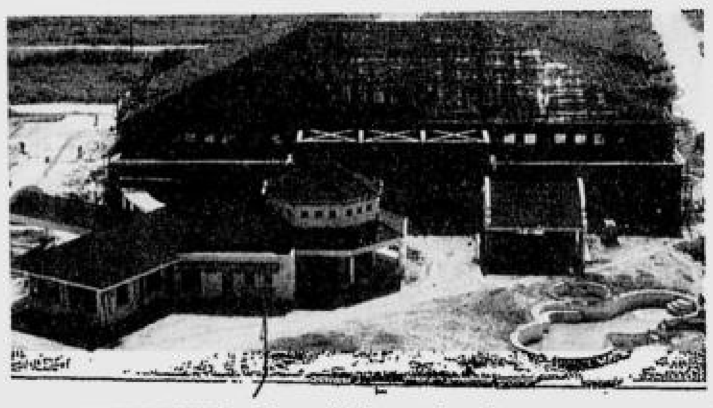
As a student, he played college football at Letran College together with Red Bull team manager Tony Chua, who recently assumed the vice presidency of the Philippine Football Federation. As an employee, he rose from the ranks to become a top executive at Photokina Marketing Corp., a business firm known for its corporate commitment not only to basketball but also to various sports like boxing, golf, bowling and billiards. However, it is his participation in the PBA which would go down as one of his crowning achievements.

"Words are not enough to describe my happiness and gratitude for being given the chance to join the country's leading professional sports organization," he said after Red Bull became a regular member of the PBA in 2000. In only its second year in 2001, Red Bull won the first of two back-to-back PBA Commissioner's Cup title, beating San Miguel Beer, 4-2, in a well-attended best-of-seven series.

"The victory was fulfilling," said a teary-eyed coach Yeng Guiao during the all-night celebration at Cafe Provencal. "This is something which I have never been seen in my long yeas as a coach in both the amateur and professional ranks." A former president of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines, Guiao also mentored Swift's Mighty Meaties to two PBA championships in 1992 and 1993.

***

JUST ASKING. How efficient is the Philippine Olympic Committee in dealing with the public? Very inefficient, I found out. Since last Jan. 31 when I wrote about it, POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr. has not bothered to answer my question: What's Cojuangco's solution to Clark's toxic issue? His failure to respond to an important question is a sad reflection of the efficiency of the POC (and that of his people, including Joey Romasanta?)... How true is the report that Philippine Sports Commission OIC Butch Ramirez kept several NSAs (except wushu) in the dark about his recent trip to China with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo? The trip was part of the RP-China partnership project aimed at boosting the Philippine bid to win the overall championships in this year's Southeast Asian Games.



THE CENTERPIECE of Beverly Place takes shape.

Beverly Place sports haven in full swing

THE GRAND community clubhouse, a sports and recreation haven, is fast rising inside the sprawling Beverly Place Residential and Business Estates property that Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. (SLRDI) is developing in Pampanga.

The clubouse, located in the heart of the 380-hectare project in San Fernando City, would soon offer residents an alternative avenue for exercise and leisure.

"This is our commitment—to give our residents and their guests a place to do sports activities as well as to relax and unwind within the community," said Sta. Lucia president Exy Robles. "We're making their investments work for them where they live."

Upon completion, the clubhouse will feature first-class facilities such as covered courts for tennis, badminton and basketball, a sports bar, and a billiard hall.

There would also be a water-based camp complete with kiddie and adult swimming pools, lazy river, giant slides, and numerous fountains.

"Very soon, we will also start the construction of an 18-hole championship golf course which is now in the final stages of planning and negotiations with a golf course designer," said Robles.

Beverly Place is accessible via the North Luzon Expressway. It is adjacent to Shoemart Pampanga, right across Robinsons Starmills, 3 minutes away from Paskuhan Village and 30 minutes away from Clark Economic Zone.

Sta. Lucia has tapped Fil-Estate Group of Marketing Companies as exclusive marketing network of Beverly Place. For information, log on to www.stalucia.com.

GTK to open Filway chess

NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines president Go Teng Kok and Mandaluyong City Administrator Ernesto Victorino, representative of Mayor Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales, will grace the opening of Filway-Time Life Open chess tournament this weekend on the second floor of Starmall Shopping Complex in Mandaluyong City.

Go Teng Kok and Victorino will make the ceremonial moves with Filway Marketing Inc. CEO/president Hector Tagaysay, Mandaluyong City Chess Association chair Epifanio De Guzman and cue artist Marlon Manalo. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

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Smart to boost SEAG fund, too

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS war between giants Globe Telecom and Smart Communications has reached the door of the Southeast Asian Games.

A day after announcing Globe's P100-million "Gold Package," the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee revealed yesterday that Smart had pledged to put up two "substantial sponsorships" for the November SEAG slated in Manila and three provincial sites.

Rep. Monico Puentevella, an official of the Philsoc, said Smart's twin sponsorship won't fall into the Philsoc's established marketing scheme which categorizes the sponsorship package as Gold (P100 million), Silver (P50 million) and Bronze (P30 million) wherein Globe's support fell.

"This is an entirely different case," said Puentevella of the Smart sponsorship, which, according to him, was sealed Wednesday night after his third meeting with Smart's chief executive officer Manny Pangilinan and Philsoc vice president and Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco.

Though Puentevella refused to discuss the figures, sources said Smart's main sponsorship is worth more than P100 million which the corporation can use to gain tax benefits in return.

"Aside from the main sponsorship, they (Smart) offered to make another contribution representing their corporate responsibility that will be outside of the taxation package," added Puentevella.

He said Pangilinan and Cojuangco will reveal the amount of the sponsorship next month but will continue to meet to discuss the details of the package. Puentevella said they had met for three times already.

Last Wednesday, Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan announced Globe's "golden package" in exchange for the company's getting exclusive rights to all SEAG telecommunication materials.

But Puentevella clarified that there was no lock-out deal for Globe, thus paving the way for Smart's entry in "a separate sponsorship arrangement."

The Bacolod congressman stressed that everybody is welcome to help in raising funds for the SEAG which is expected to cost between P800 million to P1 billion to stage.

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GABI winds up his preparations for his bout with Jimmy Pinontoan.

Gabi, Indon settle score

DIOSDADO "Prince" Gabi is expected to go for broke when he fights Indon Jimmy Pinontoan again tomorrow at Davao's Royal Mandaya Hotel.

The talented southpaw (23-2-1, 17 KOs) will try to show his readiness to vie for a world crown this year in his 10-round clash with the hard-hitting Indon, who had fought him to a draw on June 13, 2002, in Jakarta.

The shifty Gabi will also be putting on the line his World Boxing Council No. 8 flyweight ranking, which he earned when he won the WBC International crown at the expense of veteran Randy Mangubat in November of 2003.

Gabi was stripped of his title by the Italy-based governing body following an earlier commitment to fight WBC champ Pongsaklek Wongjongkam.

The Jakarta-based Pinontoan, who arrived yesterday with his manager, Pino Bahari, had earlier vowed to beat Gabi.

Weigh-in for the showdown is slated today.

North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, Gabi's manager, has assured fans of an explosive fight in this grudge rematch. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

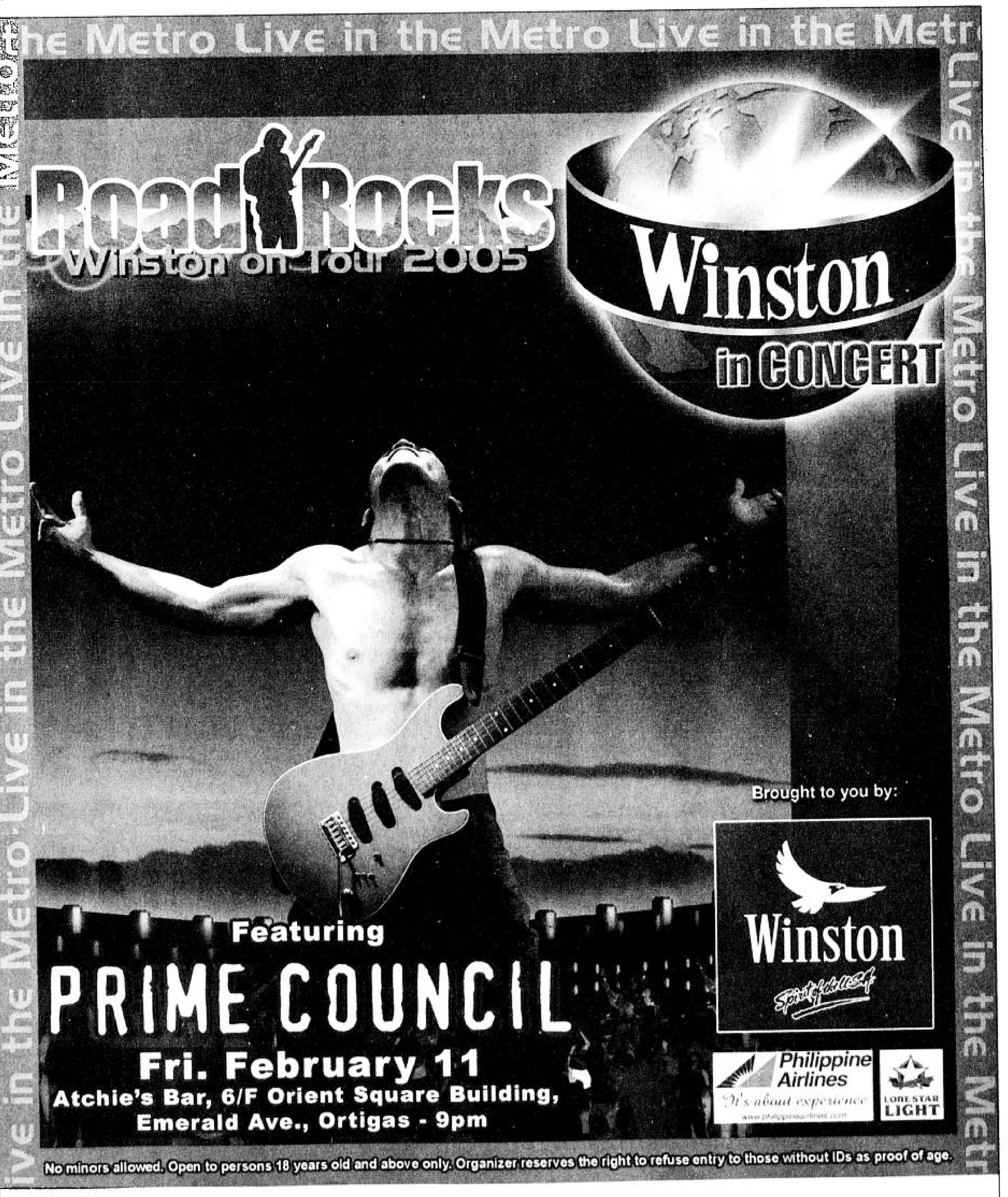
Filipino riders shine in Guam

YIGO, GUAM—Namssa-Caltex Revtex rider Glenn Aguilar and the rest of the Namssa Motocross Team Philippines shone in the kickoff of the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship Series last weekend at the Calvo Memorial Raceway Park here.

Aguilar unleashed a spirited drive in the final moto to finish second overall in the premiere 125cc division for the Namssa Motocross Team Philippines' Guam campaign supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Airlines and www.motorcyclephilippines.com.

Caltex Revtex-Oakley's Kenneth San Andres, a St. Louis College-Valenzuela senior high school student and 8-time national peewee and junior champion, grabbed 5th overall in the premiere 125cc division.

Philippine Airlines-Dickies rider Rafael Enriquez won the Guam-Philippines Peewee Moto Challenge while Caltex Revtex-Oakley bet Jean Erick Mitra ruled the Asian International Peewee 50cc Modified category by finishing first in Motos 1 and 2 and finishing 2nd in Moto 3 with Enriquez coming in second overall.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Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
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www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilionhotel.com.ph

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
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Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

'Love Abloom' at Club Punta Fuego

REKINDLE the zest for romance with Club Punta Fuego's special "Dream Valentine" offer. Members availing themselves of this special offer, when they stay from Feb. 13 to 16, will enjoy three nights accommodation in a Casita, two succulent Buffet Dinners specially prepared by the Club's seasoned Chefs, a special Valentine Dinner entertainment by the Double Infinity Pool and special turndown service for three nights to set the mood for romance. Couples will also get a special gift during their stay. The "Dream Valentine" offer is priced at only P12,000 net per couple for Club members and guests.

For the gourmands, indulge the appetite with the Club's "Valentine Dinner Specials." A "Valentine Set Dinner" will be prepared by chef Tony Palmero at the San Diego Restaurant on Feb. 12 and a "Dream Valentine Buffet Dinner" on Feb. 13 at the San Diego Restaurant and by the Double Infinity Pool area with a special Valentine entertainment on Feb. 14. The romantic "Valentine Dinner Specials" are pegged at P750 net per person.

For inquiries and reservations, call 751-4025 to 27 or (043) 729-0180 to 82, or e-mail sales@puntafuego.com.

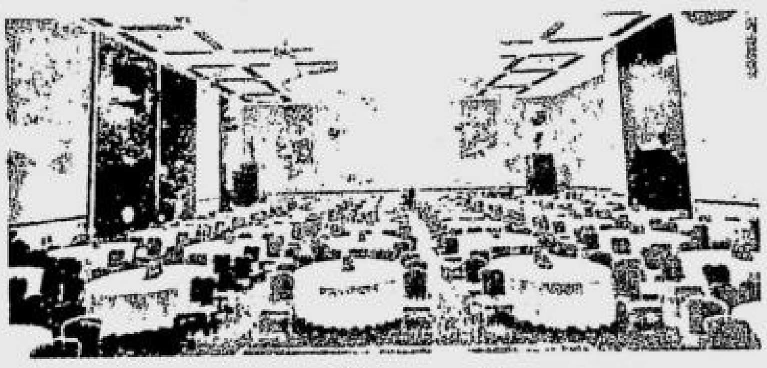
Astoria Plaza's 'zensational suite Valentine'

INDULGE in the Season of Hearts by checking in at Astoria Plaza with your special someone in a one-bedroom suite for only P5,254 net and a two-bedroom suite for only P6,250 net. The one-bedroom suite package includes complimentary buffet breakfast for two, complimentary bottle of sparkling wine with intimate set dinner for two inside your suite, serenade and butler service and surprise Valentine token. Inclusions for a two-bedroom suite package are complimentary breakfast for four, complimentary in-room dining for four and complimentary Valentine cocktails. Availing yourself of any room package also entitles you to complimentary bottled mineral water, free use of the gym and the pool, free local newspaper and 10-percent discount at Stresscape Spa. Astoria Plaza's special Valentine room package is available from Feb. 11 to 14.

You may also wish to take your Inamorata or your Prince Charming on top of the world by availing yourself of a special five-course Valentine Champagne Dinner set menu at the Ambassador's Suite (35th Floor Penthouse) of the Astoria Plaza. Be the first to sample the finest European cuisine while enjoying the breathtaking sights of the metropolis below. The five-course Valentine set menu is good for two and comes with a complimentary bottle of champagne and creamy chocolate truffles. Price: P1,500++ per person. Astoria's Valentine set dinner is available on Feb. 14.

Lucky Astoria Plaza Valentiners get a chance to win exciting prizes such as a 3 day - 2 night stay at the fabulous Puerto del Sol Beach Resort in Bolinao, Pangasinan, matinee tickets for 2 to Ballet Philippines' upcoming shows, a gift certificate for Swedish/shiatsu massage for 2 from Stresscape Spa and a surprise gift item from Jewelmer.

The Astoria Plaza is located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries call telephone number (02) 687-1111.



An explosive New Year bash

AN ASTOUNDING New Year's Countdown with Mitch Valdes recently took place at the Grand Ballroom of The Bellevue Hotel.

The Bellevue's Grand Ballroom, a two-storey structure with a 1000-person maximum capacity, features high-tech audio-visual equipment, state-of-the-art videoconferencing tools and wireless technology, large escalators and a car lift. Its eight-meter ceiling height, a record elevation by Philippine standards, was made to give immediate visual impact to the grandeur of the place. Black lacquer, silver leaf and gold are the dominant colors thoughtfully distributed throughout the interior. Upholstered panels are adorned with select art pieces as accents, and the special ceiling design, contrasting in color to the walls, complements the onion-inspired, majestic chandelier. A special flower carpet pattern in golden yellow spreads regally on the floor.

Close to 1000 guests stopped in their tracks to marvel at the world's ultimate driving experience: the incomparable BMW Series 1, which was displayed at the lobby.

Thirsty folks got their fill thanks to Eliza Rivero of San Miguel. Credit also goes to other sponsors, namely, Pepsi, Smart, Nescafe, 105.1 Crossover and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

MIST & PASSION AT THE MANILA PAVILION HOTEL

At the Manila Pavilion Hotel, the wonderful whiffs of Valentine's Day blooms and lingers with the Mist & Passion room package. Awaiting guests is a dreamy overnight stay in a mist-scented deluxe room, before which couples can share a hearty buffet dinner for two at the Café Coquilla. In the morning, couples will also be greeted with an in-room breakfast. Upon checkout, guests will receive a unique disk collection of love songs. Mist & Passion is available to local residents from Feb. 1 to 28. For reservations and inquiries, call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2333.

Love Letters at Edsa Shangri-La's lobby lounge

ON VALENTINE'S Day, Edsa Shangri-La's lobby lounge [illegible] stage to the intimate dinner concert "Love Letters" featuring the unique brand of music of Nyoy Volante and [illegible] and the sweet sultry voice of young diva [illegible].

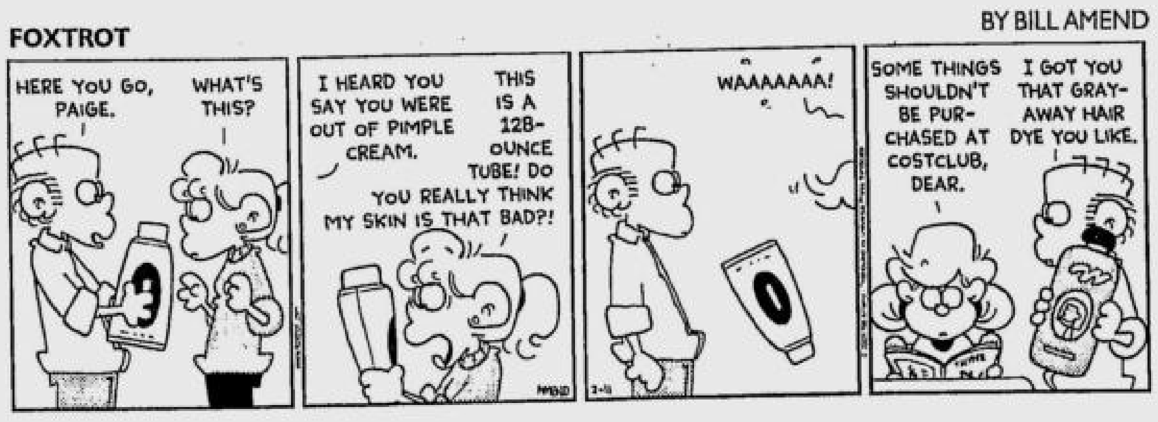
Regarded as [illegible] music industry's [illegible] Nyoy and Karylle will [illegible] audiences [illegible] immortalized [illegible] contemporary love songs [illegible] repertoire [illegible] includ[illegible] movie theme [illegible] popular [illegible] Nyoy [illegible] Karylle [illegible] Pagbigyan ang Puso [illegible] Love Letters [illegible] lobby lounge [illegible] the Valentine's Day. [illegible] 6:30 p.m. Call 633-8888 local [illegible]

A ROMANTIC EVENING AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA

Celebrate Valentine's Day with your special someone at The Executive Plaza Hotel. For only P2,900, get to spend an exclusive overnight stay with your loved one at De Luxe Room, a romantic set dinner at the Rio Bar Café, a relaxing breakfast in bed and chocolates and roses for your Sweetheart. A guest pianist will also be at the Rio Bar Café to serenade all couples on Valentines Day. This offer is for Feb. 13 and 14 only. Advance reservation is required. For inquiries, call 523-1000 locals 304 to 308 or at 525-8969.

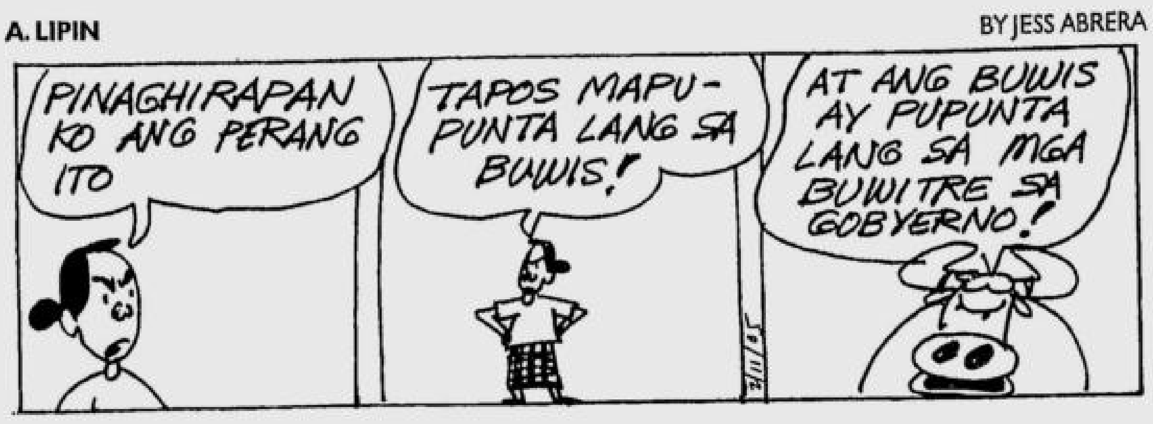
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HERE YOU GO, PAIGE.
WHAT'S THIS?
I HEARD YOU SAY YOU WERE OUT OF PIMPLE CREAM.
THIS IS A 128-OUNCE TUBE! DO YOU REALLY THINK MY SKIN IS THAT BAD?!
WAAAAAAA!
SOME THINGS SHOULDN'T BE PURCHASED AT COSTCLUB, DEAR.
I GOT YOU THAT GRAY-AWAY HAIR DYE YOU LIKE.

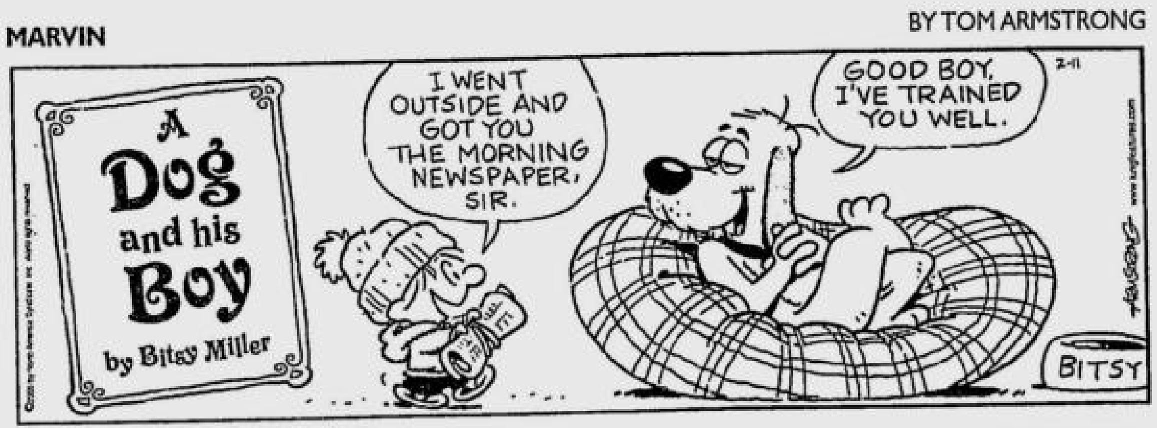
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PINAGHIRAPAN KO ANG PERANG ITO
TAPOS MAPUPUNTA LANG SA BUWIS!
AT ANG BUWIS AY PUPUNTA LANG SA MGA BUWITRE SA GOBYERNO!

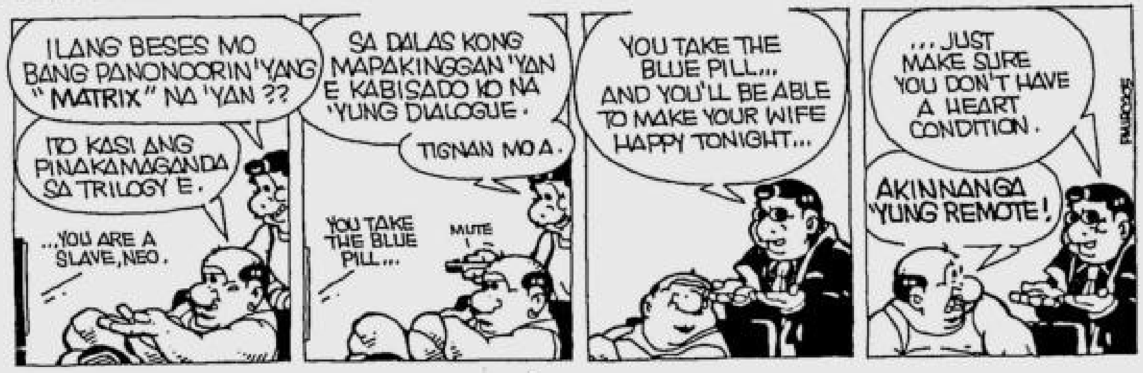
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


A Dog and his Boy
by Bitsy Miller
I WENT OUTSIDE AND GOT YOU THE MORNING NEWSPAPER, SIR.
GOOD BOY. I'VE TRAINED YOU WELL.
BITSY

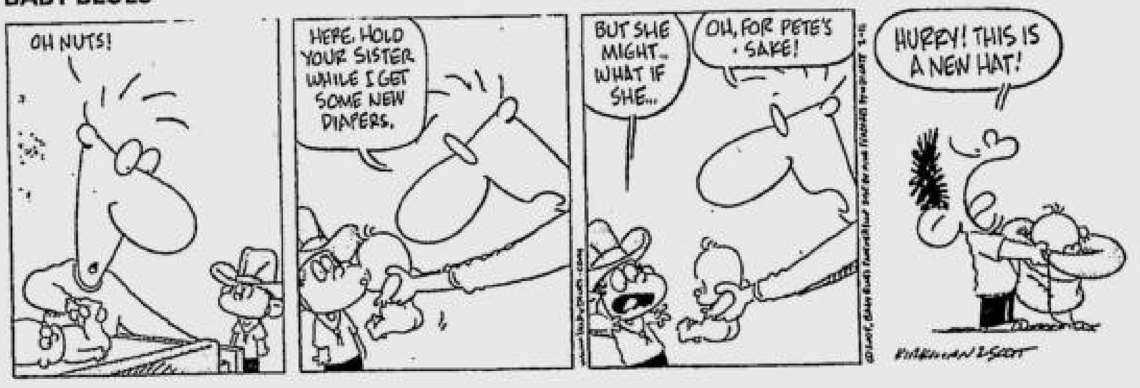
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ILANG BESES MO BANG PANONOORIN 'YANG "MATRIX" NA 'YAN ??
ITO KASI ANG PINAKAMAGANDA SA TRILOGY E.
...YOU ARE A SLAVE, NEO.
SA DALAS KONG MAPAKINGGAN 'YAN E KABISADO KO NA 'YUNG DIALOGUE.
TIGNAN MO A.
YOU TAKE THE BLUE PILL...
MUTE
YOU TAKE THE BLUE PILL... AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE YOUR WIFE HAPPY TONIGHT...
...JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HAVE A HEART CONDITION.
AKIN NANGA 'YUNG REMOTE!

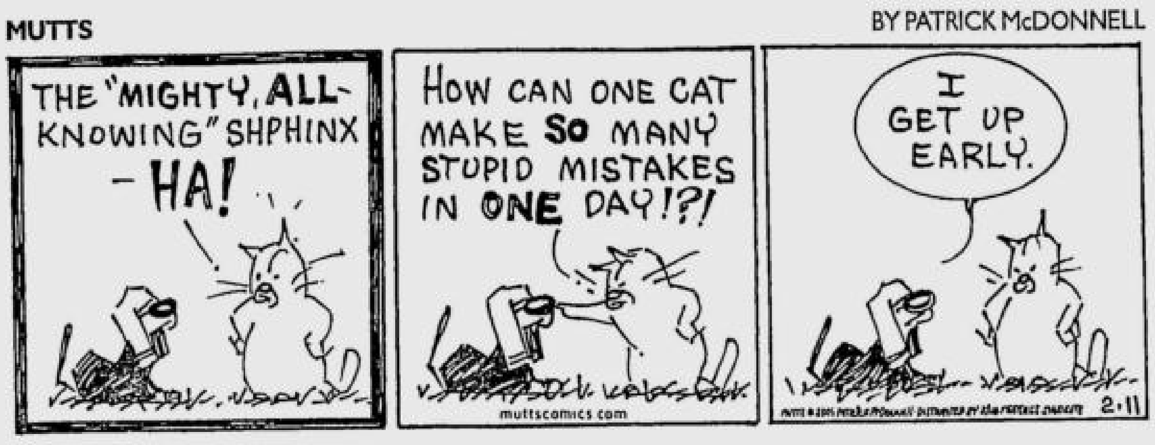
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OH NUTS!
HERE, HOLD YOUR SISTER WHILE I GET SOME NEW DIAPERS.
BUT SHE MIGHT... WHAT IF SHE...
OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
HURRY! THIS IS A NEW HAT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

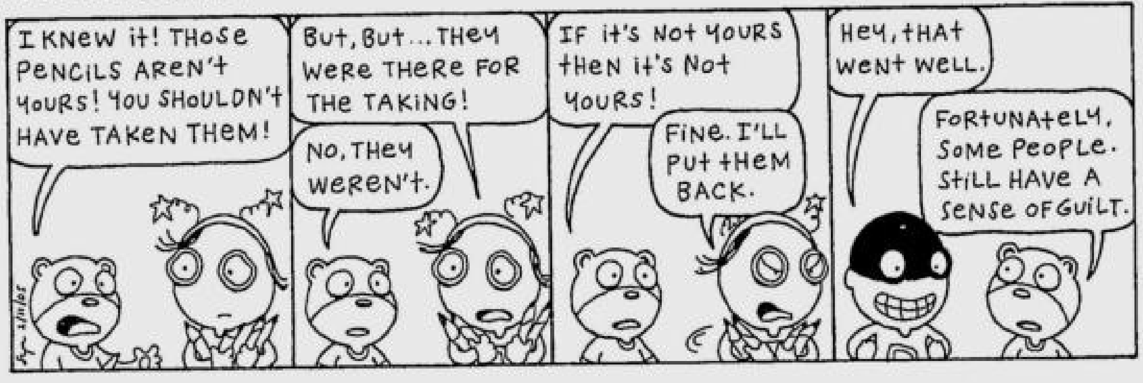
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE "MIGHTY, ALL-KNOWING" SHPHINX
-HA!
HOW CAN ONE CAT MAKE SO MANY STUPID MISTAKES IN ONE DAY!?!
I GET UP EARLY.
muttscomics.com
2.11

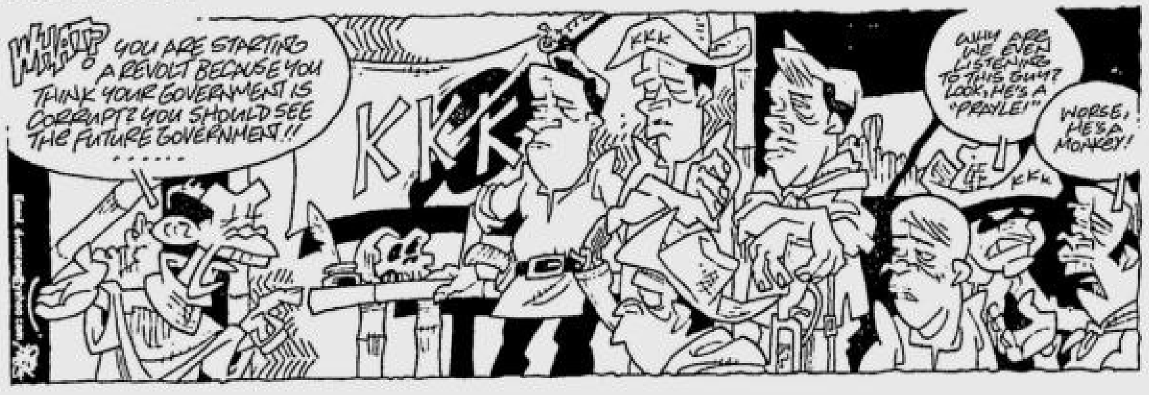
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I KNEW it! THOSE PENCILS AREN'T YOURS! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THEM!
But, But... THEY WERE THERE FOR THE TAKING!
No, THEY WEREN'T.
IF it's NOT YOURS THEN it's NOT YOURS!
FINE. I'LL PUT THEM BACK.
HEY, THAT WENT WELL.
FORTUNATELY, SOME PEOPLE. STILL HAVE A SENSE OF GUILT.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT?! YOU ARE STARTING A REVOLT BECAUSE YOU THINK YOUR GOVERNMENT IS CORRUPT? YOU SHOULD SEE THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT!!
KKK
WHY ARE WE EVEN LISTENING TO THIS GUY? LOOK, HE'S A "PRAYLE!"
WORSE, HE'S A MONKEY!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind; you're inventive. You want to make a contribution to the world. You're interested in reform. You want to improve your environment and the conditions of others. Freedom is a survival issue for you. You won't be dictated to. In fact, you're a maverick. The year ahead highlights relationships and partnerships.
Birthdate of: Leslie Nielsen, actor; Virginia Johnson, psychologist/; Jennifer Aniston, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel especially feisty and emotional today. You're ready to defend your opinions with anyone. Just don't be too quick on the draw.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're out there getting so much press it's exhausting. Try to squeeze in a little time just for yourself today. Take a walk or go for a drive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with friends could be a bit confrontational. You're each entrenched in your views. Remember: Politics is the art of the possible.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're liable to do something that calls attention to you . You might not like it. If you have to be stern with someone, try to be discreet. Don't rise to the bait if anyone tempts you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel impulsive today! You want to do something different. You want to blow this pop stand! Why not go to a different restaurant or a different store?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel possessive about things today. You might not want to share something. That's OK. Just avoid conflict with others if you can. In a few days, your feelings will change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's Moon opposes your sign. Furthermore, it's in the aggressive, reactive sign of Aries. This means conflict with others could spring up easily. Demonstrate grace under pressure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be patient with co-workers today. Once meaning of the word "scruples" is "to hesitate." Therefore, count to three before you speak. Show others the patience you hope they will show you.

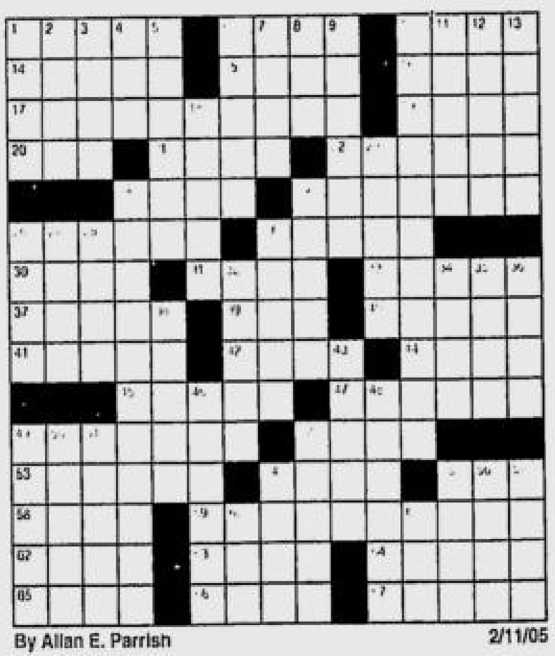
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel almost reckless about having fun today. You want your own way. You don't want to be childish, yet you can't stop this impulse. It's not a big deal, really. Enjoy yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today is ripe for family tension or conflict at home. However, as you well know, it takes two to make a fight. Just sidestep these issues.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be patient with siblings today. Something could arise that makes you competitive or envious. This is so counterproductive. It makes everyone miserable. Just wish the best for others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): When shopping today, resist the urge to impulsively buy things you don't need. Think before you reach for your cash!

DAILY CROSSWORD

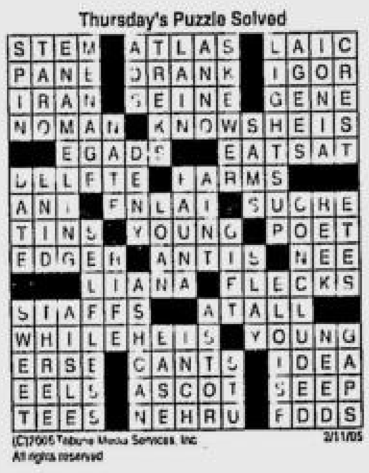


By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
2/11/05

ACROSS
1 One-celled organism
6 __ mater
10 Feel vexation
14 Stable females
15 Pursues persistently
16 MS-DOS competitor
17 Halloween coverage
19 Polynesian figurine
20 1974 John Wayne film
21 Sleuth Charlie
22 Column's grooves
24 Discomfort
25 Least affluent
26 Lighter fuel
29 Poetry
30 Reitman or Lendl
31 __ accompli
33 Adlai's 1956 slate-mate
37 Checkbook entry
39 Fr. holy woman
40 Auxiliary verb
41 Pesto or marinara
42 Picnic spot, in Paris
44 _ buco
45 Chilean range
47 Missile
49 Part of EDT
52 Chinese craft
53 Nebraska river
54 Pear variety
55 007, e.g.
58 State known for its caucuses
59 Fire detector
62 "Blondie" creator Young
63 XXL, e.g.
64 Clear thinking
65 Went under
66 Bela Lugosi in "Son of Frankenstein"
67 Andes grazer

DOWN
1 Radio letters
2 Painter Chagall
3 LaSalle of "ER"
4 Panhandle
5 Cinders holder
6 Spot-selling fellow
7 Bank deal
8 Booker T.'s backup band
9 Request
10 Alvin Toffler book
11 Bond together
12 Holmgren and Ditka
13 Live
18 Pickpocket
23 Misplaces
24 Fear-filled episode
25 Duchin or Nero
26 Bridge estimates
27 Eye layer
28 No-no
29 Gerulaitis of tennis
32 Forest quaker
34 Chore
35 Different
36 Tab's target
38 Religious belief
43 Earthen jar
46 Formal-ish
48 Available by beeper
49 Heroic sagas
50 Maui welcome
51 Greeted and escorted
52 Wild card
54 __ the clown
55 Heroic tale
56 Straight-laced
57 Family activities org.
60 Russ. jetfighter
61 Chat-room humor letters

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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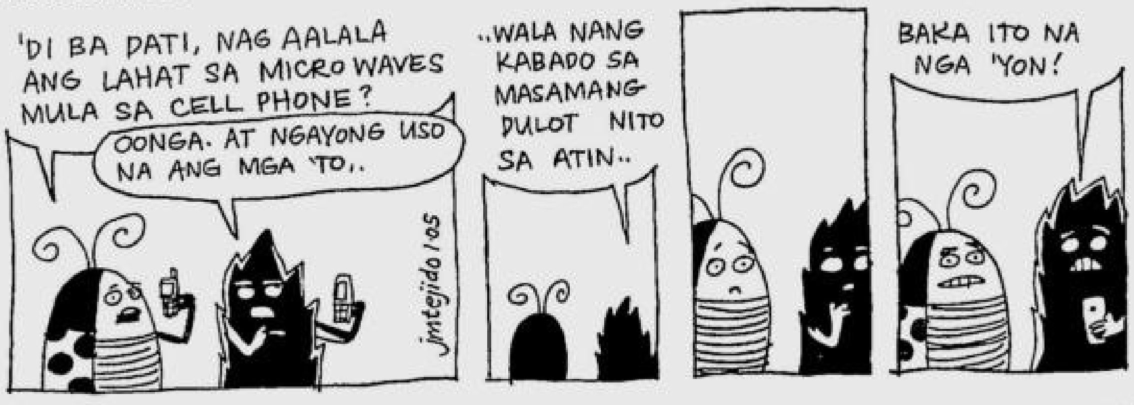
2/11/05

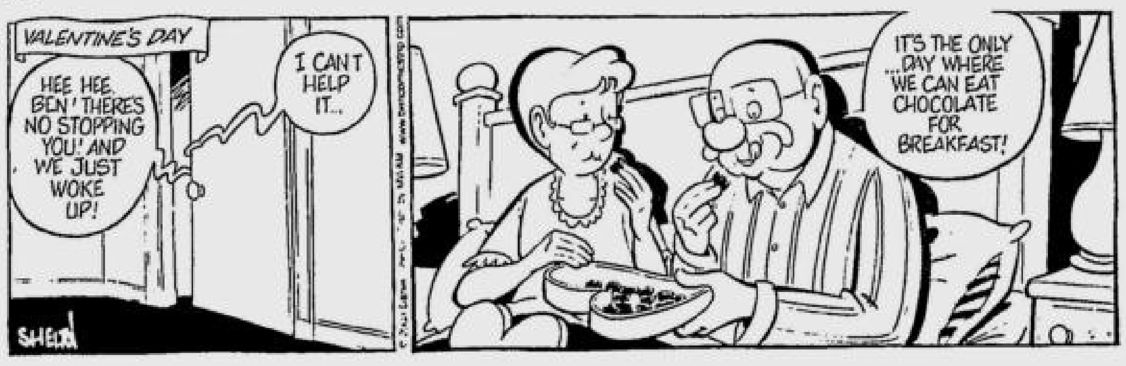
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


'DI BA DATI, NAG AALALA ANG LAHAT SA MICRO WAVES MULA SA CELL PHONE?
OONGA. AT NGAYONG USO NA ANG MGA 'TO..
..WALA NANG KABADO SA MASAMANG DULOT NITO SA ATIN..
BAKA ITO NA NGA 'YON!
jmtejido 05

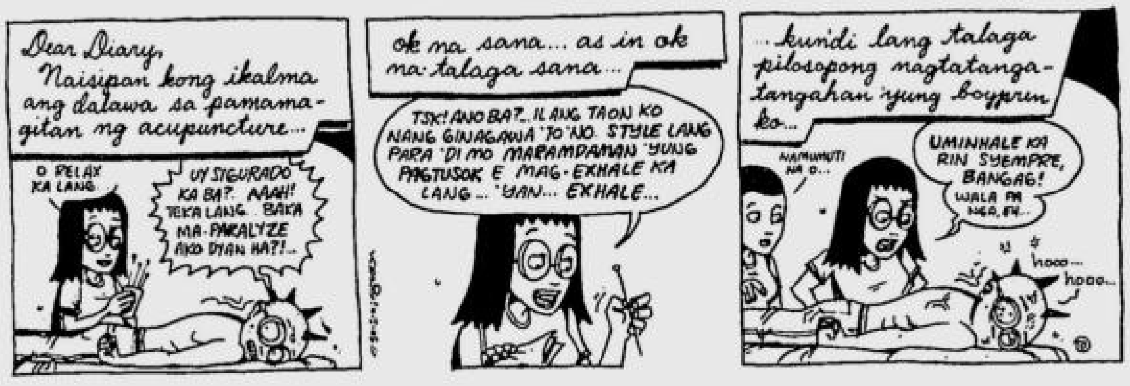
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


VALENTINE'S DAY
HEE HEE. BEN! THERE'S NO STOPPING YOU! AND WE JUST WOKE UP!
I CAN'T HELP IT...
IT'S THE ONLY DAY WHERE WE CAN EAT CHOCOLATE FOR BREAKFAST!
SHELTON

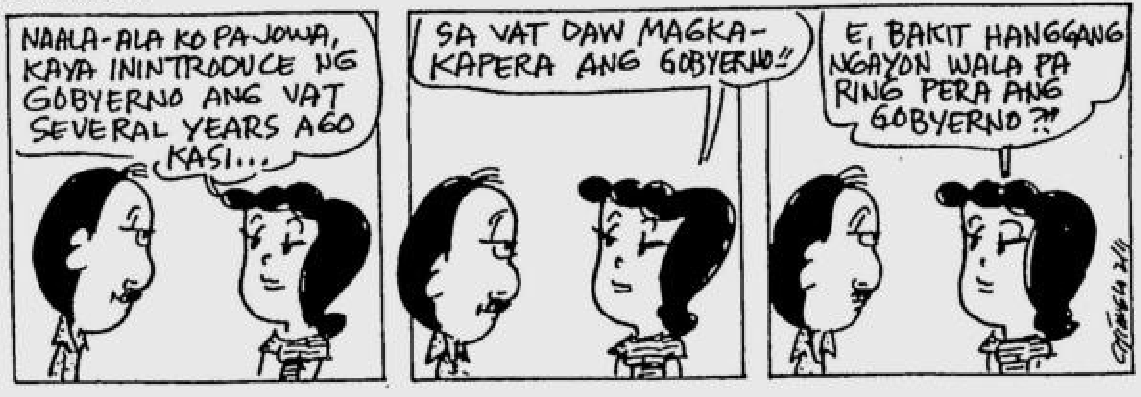
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Dear Diary, Naisipan kong ikalma ang dalawa sa pamamagitan ng acupuncture...
O RELAX KA LANG.
UY SIGURADO KA BA?. AAAH! TEKA LANG. BAKA MA-PARALYZE AKO DYAN HA?!..
ok na sana... as in ok na talaga sana...
TSK! ANO BA?.. ILANG TAON KO NANG GINAGAWA 'TO 'NO. STYLE LANG PARA 'DI MO MARAMDAMAN 'YUNG PAGTUSOK E MAG-EXHALE KA LANG... 'YAN... EXHALE...
...kundi lang talaga pilosopong nagtatanga-tangahan 'yung boyprin ko...
NAMUMUTI NA O...
UMINHALE KA RIN SYEMPRE, BANGAG! WALA PA NGA, EH..
hooo...
hooo...

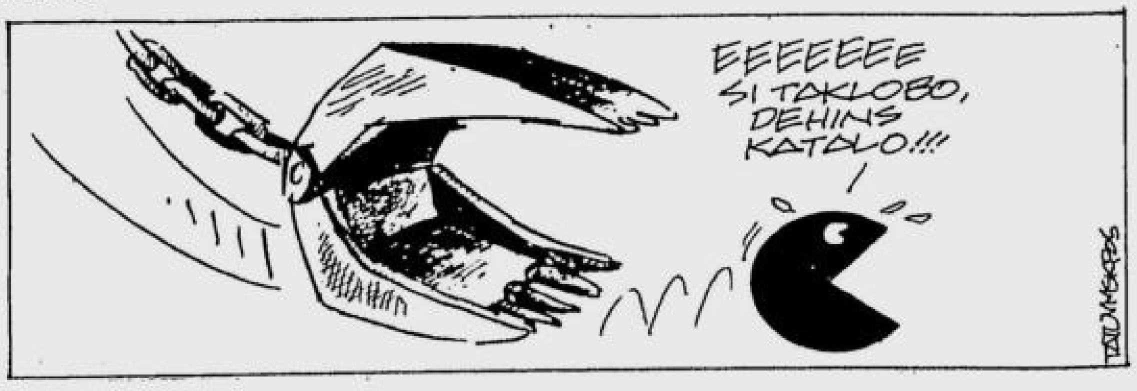
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAALA-ALA KO PA JOWA, KAYA ININTRODUCE NG GOBYERNO ANG VAT SEVERAL YEARS AGO KASI...
SA VAT DAW MAGKA-KAPERA ANG GOBYERNO!!
E, BAKIT HANGGANG NGAYON WALA PA RING PERA ANG GOBYERNO?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EEEEEEE SI TAKLOBO, DEHINS KATALO!!!

gentxt

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We're givin' one free ticket each to the first 300 Gentxters to get down to the Gentxt booth at the Market! Market! Activity Center from 11 a.m. onwards on Saturday, Feb 12. Get to hit the awards night going down on Feb 18, Friday, at the NBC Tent, The Fort. Groove with Kyla, Luke Mejares, Dice & K9, Francis M and more, and be there to witness history being made in the Pinoy hip hop music scene.

CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIPHOP AND RNB?

CHECK THESE RINGBACK TONES OUT

Kyla	
BcusOfU	EA075
HanggangNgayon	EA203
HangngNgyn	EA076
HumanNature	EA053
IFeel4U	EA187
NtUrOrdnaryGirl	EA191

Luke Mejares	
214	RA219
JstASmylAway	RA218
LivinWoutU	RA217
PaanoNa	RA216

Francis M	
3StarsNASun	RA212
BowWowWow	RA211
CldSmrNyts	EA180
Friends	RA254
GrlBMyn	RA210
HoleLotLovin	RA258
KldscopWrld	RA209
Luv4Lyf	RA255
PeaceNEarth	RA256
WhatYouWant	RA257

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Inexperienced but upbeat

By Nini Valera

THE NEW head of GMA Films has admitted that she knows nothing about filmmaking.

Annette Gozon-Abrogar, 33, is a corporate and tax lawyer half of the time. She is the daughter of GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon, in whose law firm she works mornings.

"*Wala* (None)," said Gozon-Abrogar when asked about her experience in film. She explained that her job at GMA involved the "creative aspects, like concept development, scripts and story maps."

She was taking over as president of GMA Films from her cousin Butch Jimenez, "without fear." Jimenez was now "very busy with television," she said.

Her new post makes Gozon-Abrogar the most powerful person in the network's movie production arm, "in the sense that I'd be active." But, she qualified, "there's a board... [and I'm] answerable to my Dad, and to [GMA co-owner] Jimmy Duavit."

Fearlessly, Annette Gozon-Abrogar takes over as president of GMA Films

Yes, I can

She told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview that she was confident she could handle the job, despite her lack of background. She held up her father as an example, saying he had "totally no background" in running a broadcast network when he took over.

"But if you study—day in and day out—I think you can learn," she said.

GMA Films is being re-launched this year with the teen flick "Let the Love Begin," an "intertwining love story" that stars the love teams of Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin, and "Starstruck" survivors Mark Herras and Jennilyn Mercado.

Gozon-Abrogar said: "Maybe they wanted me [in this position] because they want to use film as leverage for the network... like, make the stars shine more by giving them movies. So I'm just really a link. We've been looking for someone to be AVP (assistant vice president), someone who's a veteran in the movie industry. But we have not found [the right] person. We just got a line producer... so we could have our movie out this month."

That line producer was Manny Valera, who has done several movies for Regal Entertainment.

Genuine movie idol

Director Mac Alejandre, who directed "Let the Love Begin" (which opened yesterday), observed: "Richard Gutierrez is the only genuine movie idol after Richard Gomez and Gabby Concepcion."

It seems a lot is riding on the screen coupling of Richard and Angel—at least P20 million, the total budget without the TV plugs—according to Gozon-Abrogar.

The love team of Richard and Angel is featured in GMA 7's "Mulawin." But their screen coupling in "Sigaw," a film fest entry last December, failed to draw an audience, and the movie landed among the cellar dwellers in terms of box office take.

"Let the Love Begin" also collides with Star Cinema's "Dreamboy" and the Hollywood movie "Alfie."

"[But] I'm very optimistic," Gozon-Abrogar said. "I think, the strongest love team (today) is Richard and Angel. Jennilyn and Mark... wherever they go, are mobbed. So I think that in terms of popularity of the stars, we're going to be okay. In terms of story, it's a very touching Hollywood romance type of movie."

Foreign market

She also has her sights on the foreign market, with help from the network.

"Next year, we will hold the soft launch of our international channel," she revealed. "Our movies may be part and parcel of that [launch]. We will be having road shows with our stars to introduce the channel in the United States."

Instead of just one grandiose film produced each year, GMA Films is set to produce small quality pictures, said Gozon-Abrogar. "We used to spend as much as P80 to P100 million per film. We made only one movie a year, but it was *en grande* (big production)."

The company still has a "very big budget" for a "Darna" movie that it would enter in the Metro Manila Film Festival next year. Outside of this, Gozon-Abrogar has targeted three dramas for her initial projects. She described these as "not much [in terms of] special effects, which bloats the budget... but story-driven."

Pleasant surprise

She expressed surprise at the goodwill that veteran movie producers had extended to her. She explained: "There is a big difference between the movie and television industries in terms of competition. I've never received helpful advice from the other TV networks. They don't share. But in the movies, I'm so surprised with the help that I get. Vic Sotto, during a party, told me how he does his films, how he makes sure that the budget is tight. Malou Choa-Fagar (of Television and Production Exponents, producers of 'Eat Bulaga') also offered to help me if I needed it.

"Mother Lily (Monteverde, Regal producer) is also very [willing] to sit down with me and share [her thoughts]. Tony Gloria (Unitel Films), sat down with Wilma Galvante (GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment), and said he wanted to share with us his experiences... [and] his booking agent."

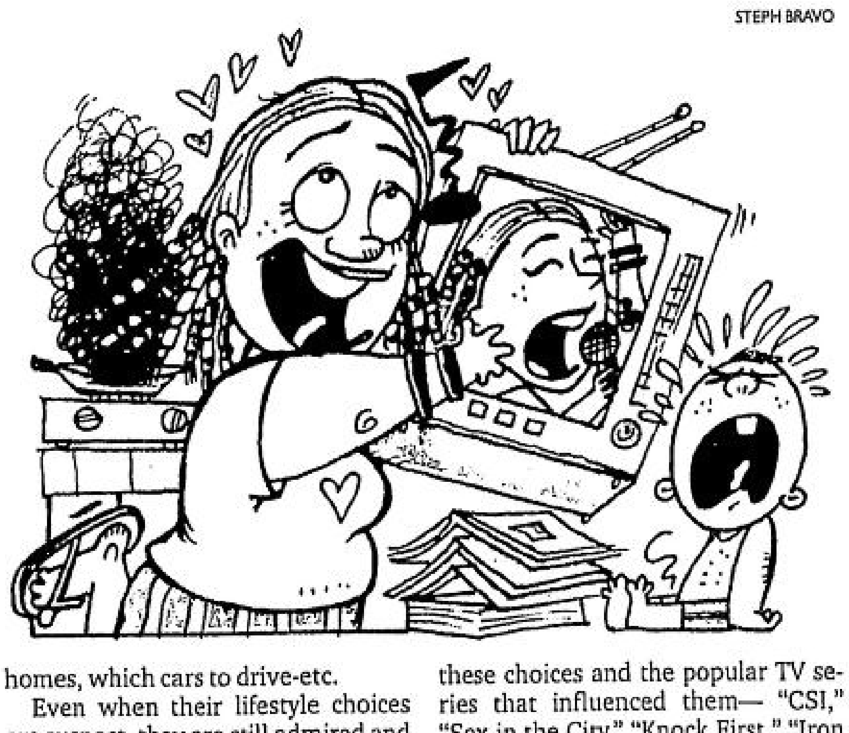
But Gozon-Abrogar said this didn't mean she would take everybody's counsel: "If it's valid, I'd do it."

GMA Films produced its last film three years ago. The movie was "Death Row," which tackled the death penalty issue, and starred Cogie Domingo and Eddie Garcia. It was an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Excessive obsession with celebrity

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre


STEPH BRAVO

IN THESE parts, celebrities are lionized by the media, and their "exciting" lives and careers are held up as sterling examples of how to be successful. In other countries, however, people are not as clueless and ga-ga.

In the United States, for instance, fears have been expressed in the media about viewers and listeners' excessive obsession with celebrity. Stars are held up as perfect and desirable icons, but the "reality" of show business should not be held up as a totem for anything, because it is artificial.

It creates artificial needs and expectations that cannot be fulfilled by non-stars and other "ordinary" monsters, thus resulting in general dissatisfaction with the way things really are.

For example, some men end up thinking that their wives are plain and boring, so they look down on them and live vicariously through celebrities.

This obsession is stoked by excessive coverage in the media of anything and everything that celebrities do, from launching a new album to just going to the mall.

Celebrities' "tastes" are held up as standards for what to wear, what wines to drink, how to decorate homes, which cars to drive-etc.

Even when their lifestyle choices are suspect, they are still admired and emulated, just because they're known, and are thus supposed to know what they're doing. That kind of logic is—illogical!

Even more disturbingly, a US study reveals that young people's career choices have been significantly influenced by what they see on TV. In the past, many youths said they wanted to become doctors, lawyers or businessmen. The new survey shows that, these days, the careers of choice are: forensics, journalism, the culinary arts, performing, decorating and sports!

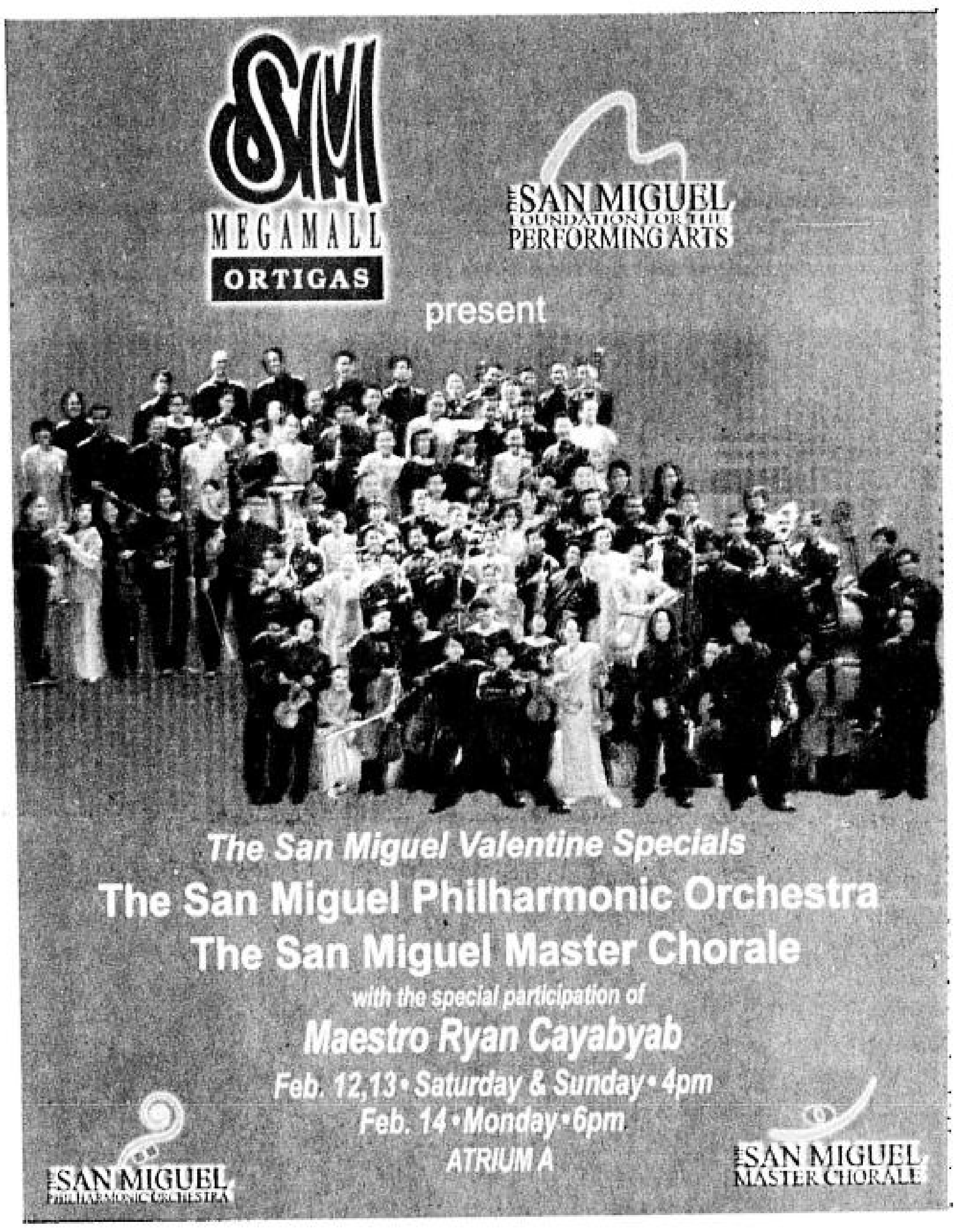
Why this drastic shift? A correlation has been established between these choices and the popular TV series that influenced them— "CSI," "Sex in the City," "Knock First," "Iron Chef," etc.

Young people want to experience for themselves the "excitement" of these careers, not realizing that the TV shows have jazzed up their depiction of those occupations to the point of hyper-unreality.

Thus, fresh graduates' career expectations have become too simplistic to realistically achieve. The overstimulation provided by television has made ersatz excitement an end in itself for young people; and that's all to the bad.

The shallow "celebrity culture" that has been engendered by TV and

EXCESSIVE/ A2-2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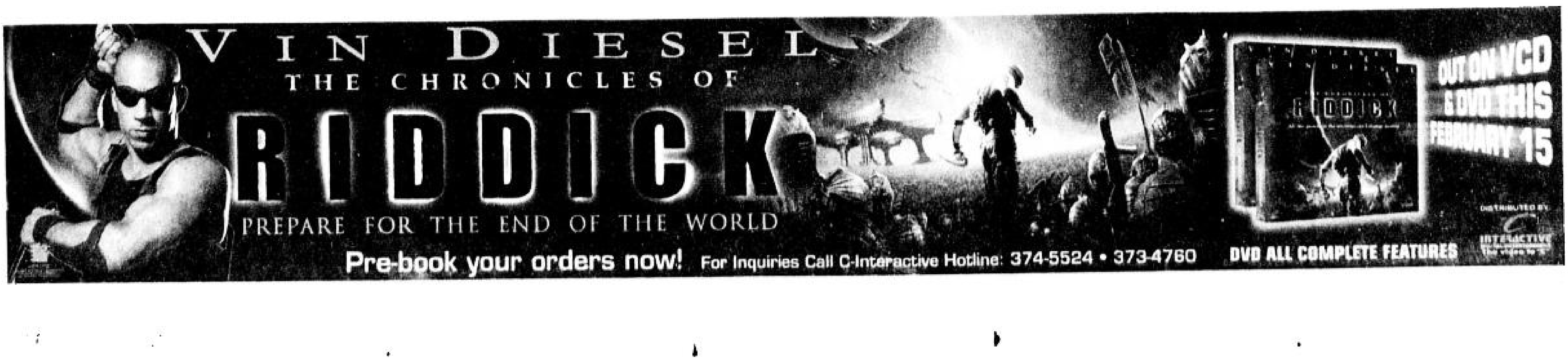
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AYALA CINEMAS THX

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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
- 1 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (THX)
- 2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 3 DREAMBOY
- 4 SHALL WE DANCE
- 5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

G1 GLORIETTA 1
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
- 3 ELEKTRA
- 4 DREAMBOY

G4 GLORIETTA 4
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
- 3 GUARANTEED SEATS THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (THX) 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
- 4 MEET THE FOCKERS
- 5 SHALL WE DANCE
- 6 DREAMBOY
- 7 ALFIE

GB1 GREENBELT 1
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
- 2 DREAMBOY 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

GB3 GREENBELT 3
- 1 GUARANTEED SEATS FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (THX) 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30
- 2 GUARANTEED SEATS THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (THX) 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30
- 3 GUARANTEED SEATS A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
- 4 GUARANTEED SEATS SHALL WE DANCE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30
- 5 GUARANTEED SEATS DREAMBOY 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
- 1 DREAMBOY
- 2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
- 4 MADHOUSE
- 5

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Valentine Show Featuring Side A February 13, 2005	Valentines' Serenade at Food Establishments February 12-14 2005	A Book Bug's A Bunch of Treat for Heart February 11, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 3 PARK	GREENBELT 3 LOBBY
Valentine Show featuring Bituin Escalante February 12 2004	Vera Wang Gown Exhibit February 17-28, 2005

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Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

Stargazing at the Glorietta

AYALA CINEMAS GMA

featuring the stars of

Let The Love Begin

Richard Gutierrez · Angel Locsin
Mark Herras · Jennylyn Mercado

TODAY (Feb. 11 - Fri.)
4:00 pm - Market! Market! Activity Center
6:00 pm - Glorietta Activity center

Reserved seats for the first 100 moviegoers & FREE picture taking with the stars for the first 30 moviegoers

Simply present your LET THE LOVE BEGIN movie ticket purchased in Ayala Cinemas on February 11 at the booth located in the activity center.

Ayala Malls got more than shopping treats for Valentines Day

AYALA CENTER
Ms. Bituin Escalante
February 12 8 pm
Greenbelt 3 Park

SIDE A Band
February 13 5 pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Jazz music, string quartets and flowers await all diners
February 12 to 14

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Jose Mari Chan
February 14 8 pm
Lagoon Area

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16
- 1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA • THX 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
- 2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 4 ALFIE 10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
- 5 DREAMBOY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 6 SHALL WE DANCE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
- 8 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
- 9 MEET THE FOCKERS 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
- 10 ELEKTRA 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
- 1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 10:10 1:05 4:00 6:55 9:50
- 2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
- 4 SHALL WE DANCE 10:30 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
- 5 ALFIE 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 7 DREAMBOY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
- 1 SHALL WE DANCE 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
- 2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30
- 3 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
- 4 ELEKTRA 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
- 5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 10:25 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:30
- 6 DREAMBOY 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:15
- 7 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30
- 8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:45 2:30 5:15 8:00 10:30

NOVALICHES 936-3229/31
- 1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25
- 2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00
- 3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
- 4 WITHOUT A PADDLE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
- 5 DREAMBOY 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
- 6 SHALL WE DANCE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
- 7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
- 8 ELEKTRA 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30

PIONEER 687-5378
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
- 3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
- 4 DREAMBOY

ALABON 288-2575
- EGIN
- EGIN

CAINTA 240-4681
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 2 SHALL WE DANCE
- 3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
- 4 DREAMBOY

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- 3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
- 4 ELEKTRA
- 5 DREAMBOY

LIPA (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870
- 1 DREAMBOY
- 2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 3 SHALL WE DANCE
- 4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
- 5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
- 1 DREAMBOY
- 2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
- 3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
- 4 ELEKTRA
- 5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

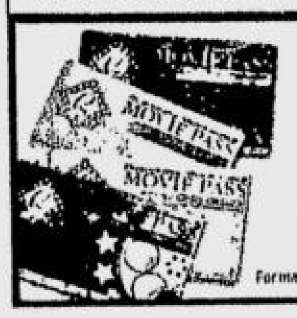
ANGELES (045) 892-2348
- 1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
- 2 DREAMBOY
- 3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 4 SHALL WE DANCE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8189
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
- 3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
- 4 ELEKTRA
- 5 DREAMBOY
- 6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

STARMILLS (045) 876-1927 (045) 961-5270
- 1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
- 2 DREAMBOY
- 3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 4 MEET THE FOCKERS
- 5 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
- 6 MADHOUSE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
- 1 ELEKTRA
- 2 RAISE YOUR VOICE
- 3 DREAMBOY
- 4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 5 MADHOUSE
- 6 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
- 1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- 2 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
- 3 RACING STRIPES
- 4 DREAMBOY
- 5 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
- 6 KUNG FU HUSTLE



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Excessive obsession

From page A1

other media has shifted the focus of young people from long-range career advancement to instant gratification.

When they enter the workforce and discover that life is nowhere as thrilling and easy as TV depicts it, the rude realization can result in a psychological disappointment and displacement that in turn creates more problems of its own.

Clearly, therefore, viewers have to be taught that, despite its pretensions to reality, TV is very seldom authentic in its depiction of the way things really are. So, they shouldn't base their expectations and actuations on what they see on that gleaming, winking screen in their homes. The gleam and the wink say it all.

Feedback

FROM Ely R. Ocampo of Pasay City: "I agree with you that the 'forest' of billboards in Metro Manila, especially at key intersections, has made the metropolis even uglier than it used to be, and there should be stricter supervision by the cities involved, so that the problem doesn't get from worse to worst.

"One way to do it would be to make the cost of the permit to put up a billboard very prohibitive, to discourage just anybody from adding to the 'visual pollution' that has already taken over Metro Manila.

"The content of billboards should also be strictly supervised. Since outdoor displays can be readily seen by everybody children included, only 'General Patronage' visual material should be allowed…"

The fearless Linda Marlowe

WHEN an actress hits 60, she has the choice of either retiring gracefully, or carrying on disgracefully. Luckily for us, British comedienne Linda Marlowe has opted for a third option: to continue performing brilliantly, so that new generations of viewers can savor her irascible, perceptive wit.

In celebration of Women's Month this March, the British Council and the CCP present Ms. Marlowe in "No Fear," a powerful one-woman show combining music, mime and monologue. The show has won acclaim at the Edinburgh International Festival.

Ms. Marlowe will take audiences through a woman's "Amazonian" adventures as a daring divorcee, raunchy rock-chick, undercover operation and manic mother as she depicts the antic viewpoint of the world's oldest circus artist on the eve of her 100th birthday.

Performances: March 1, Marcelo B. Fernan Press Center, Cebu; March 3, Henry Luce Auditorium, Dumaguete; March 5, CCP Little Theater. Call 914-1011 to 14, extension 130.

The R&B Princess and the Voice of Endearment
Bring the sound of love from your phone to your loved one with

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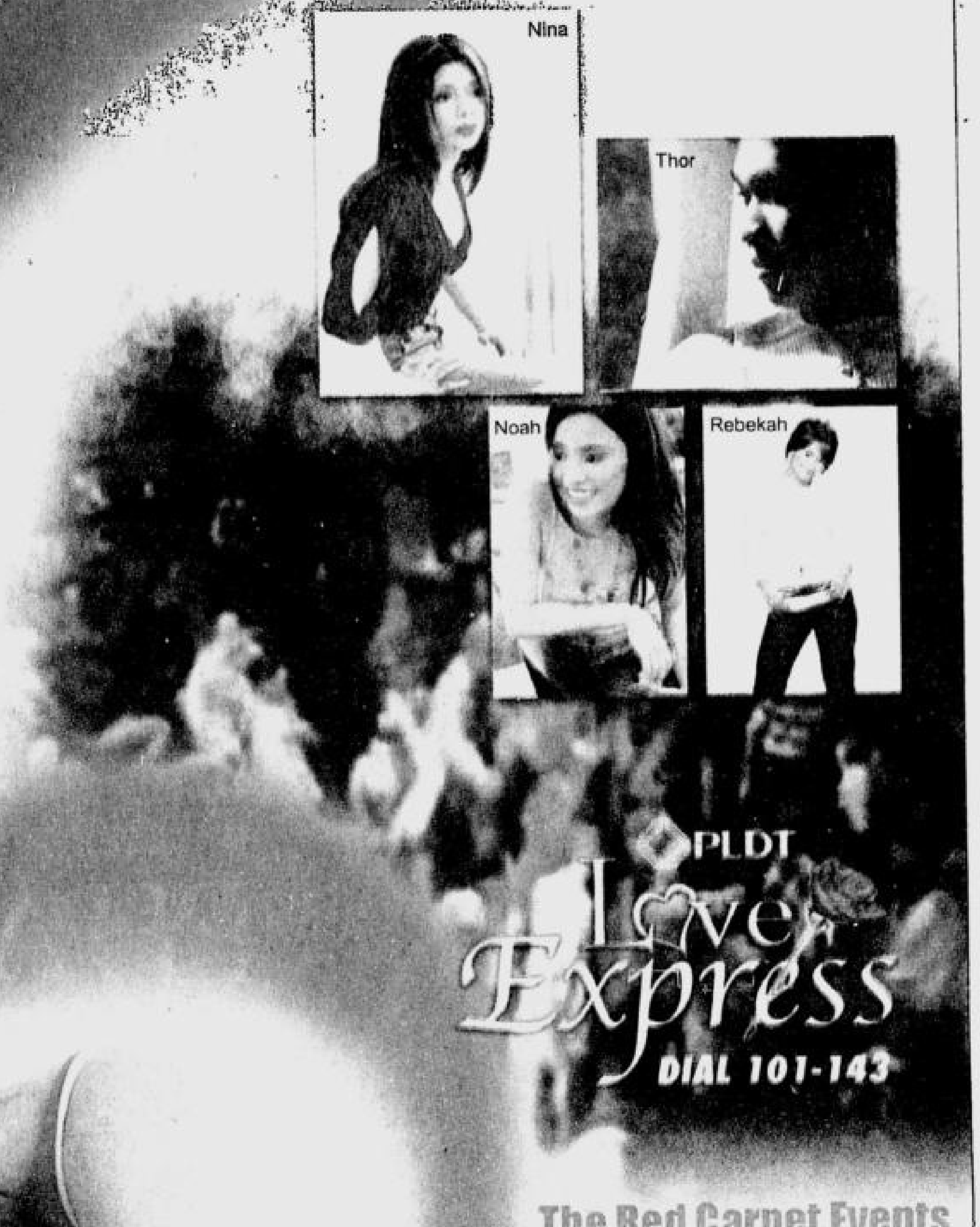

PLDT lets you feel the love this February with a red hot kilig service that will surely make you blush. Dahil kung singing telegrams dati, PLDT Love Express na ngayon. Starting February 8 to 28, 2005, R&B princess Kyla serenades with the most romantic love songs while Love Notes' main man Joe D' Mango shares messages straight from the heart.

Tell your Valentine how you really feel. Simply dial 101-143, it's free of charge. Here you can choose from a dreamy selection of love messages that warms the heart. Send your darling a soulful sampling of Kyla's heartfelt a capella renditions like *Because of you, Always on time* and *I feel for you.* Let Joe D'Mango's engaging sentiments about writing love letters, falling in love for the first time and professing eternal love take your honey's breath away. For only P8.00, PLDT Love Express lets you send the sweetest love message to any PLDT landline or a Smart/ Talk N' Text Phone.

Of course there's nothing like your own voice to make your phone message more special. That's why PLDT Love Express lets you personalize your message by letting you add your own sentiments after each song or love note.

On this month of hearts, PLDT's heartwarming yet inexpensive innovation will make your Valentines a season to remember. So dial now and discover the new language of love. Let your true feelings be heard with PLDT Love Express.

Kyla

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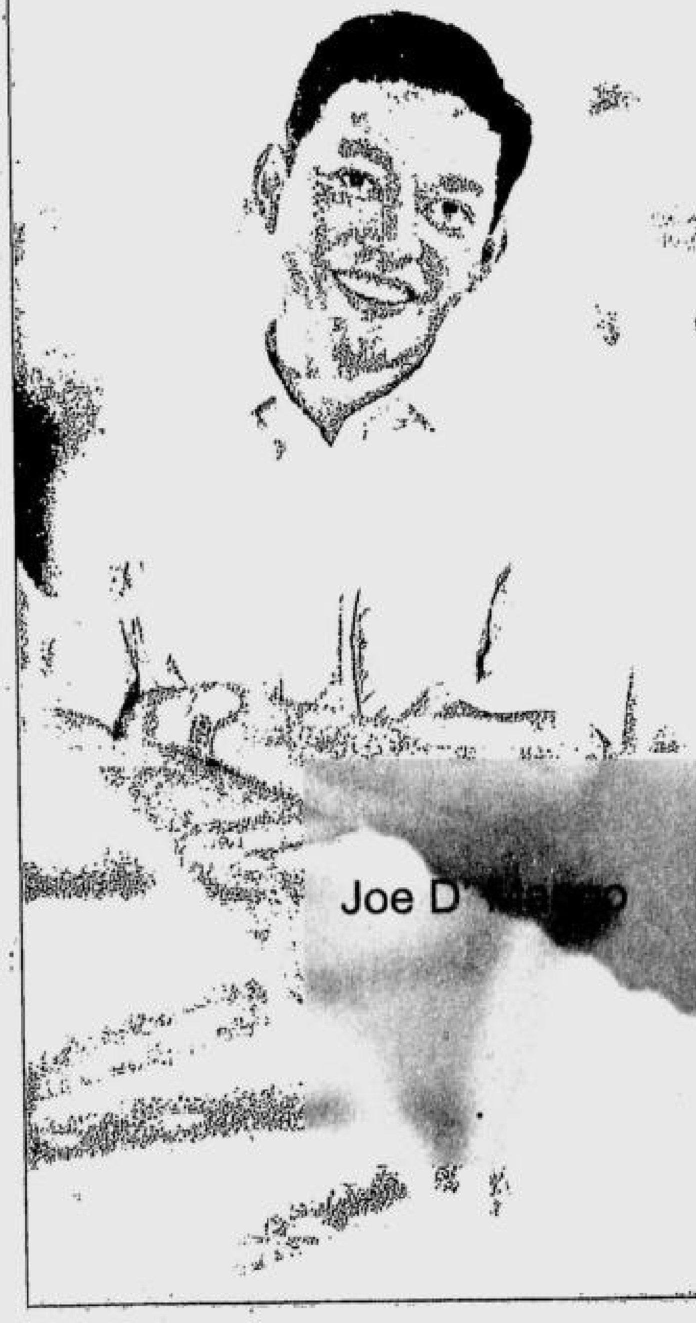
The Red Carpet Events

Get ready for endearing love duets and concerts to illuminate your evenings as PLDT and Metro Manila's most influential R&B station Wave 89.1 offer a stellar lineup of artists to sweep you off your feet.

Relive your romance with MYMP, Natural High and Passage Band. Savor the sweet voices of Nina, Viktoria and Rebekah. Belt your heart out with Thor, Mike Luis, and Noah. These fab performers will make sure you'll fall in love all over again all weekends of February at The Mega Strip, SM Megamall and The Garden, SM North Edsa.

These are just some of the many reasons to fall head-over-heels with PLDT this Valentines season. Expect more surprises to come from your one and only--PLDT.



Joe D' Mango

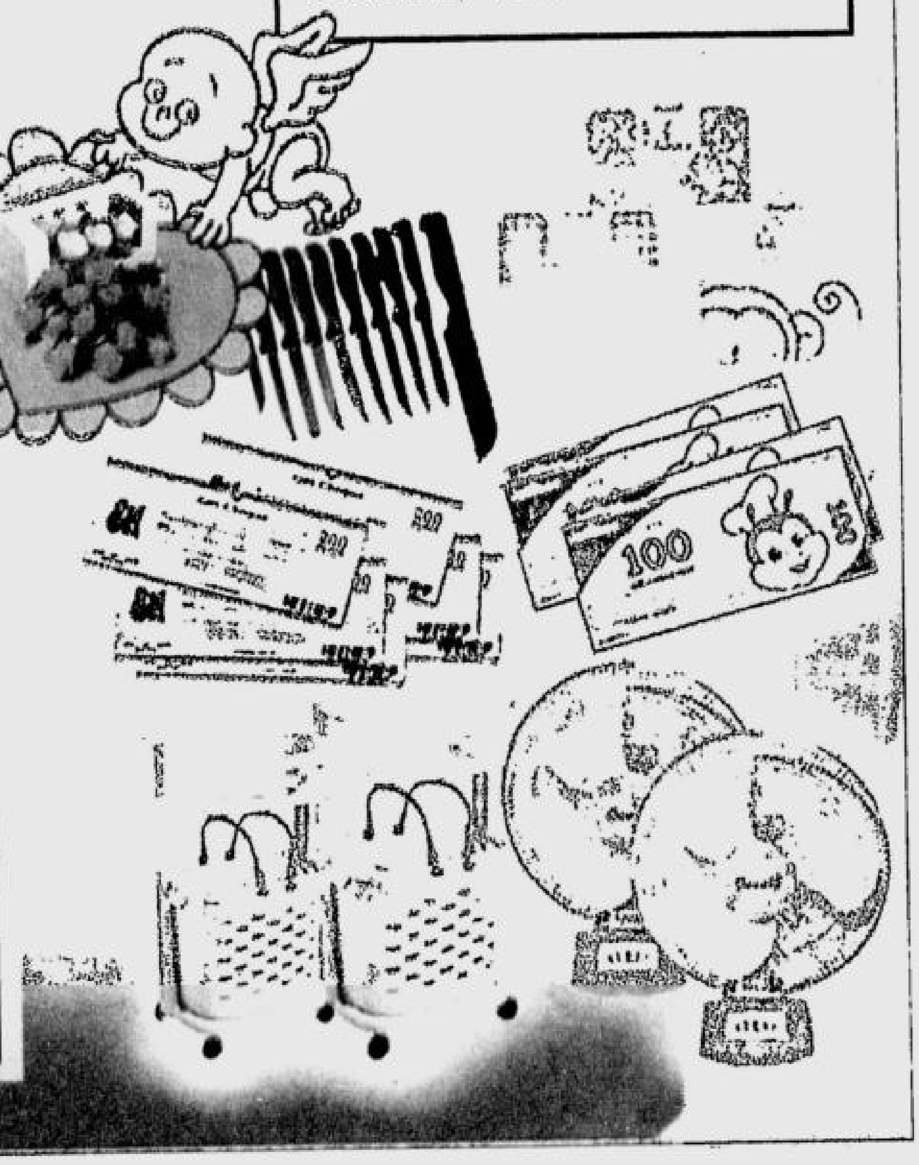
Red Hot Home Rewards at 40%

The month of love becomes more rewarding for PLDT Home Rewards members as they get 40% off on the required points to redeem any PLDT Home Rewards item. For a complete list of PLDT Home Rewards items, call 101-838.

PLDT Home Rewards members also get more exciting Valentine treats. The first 50 callers and February birthday celebrant callers will get special seats at PLDT Valentine events, a lovely night cap or a revealing one-on-one love reading session with Madam Rosa.

Even Cupid gets in on the action as he romances PLDT subscribers with gifts of chocolates and roses. Expect this love child from February 9 to 14 as he spreads the love in selected PLDT Offices in Metro Manila.

PLDT Subscribers who fail to activate their PLDT Home Rewards Account on or before February 28, 2005 will have all their accumulated points forfeited.



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BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS
BEST ORIGINAL SONG
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
classic tale of terror,
mystery and romance,
seen by over 8 million
people worldwide,
comes to the big screen
for the first time.
The PHANTOM of the OPERA
In theaters February 9, 2005.

Be enthralled by the story of a musical genius and his protégé.

SMART Infinity lets you capture the mysterious mood of their love story through "Phantom Of The Opera" tones and images.

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SONG	KEYWORD
Think of Me	thinkofme
Angel of Music	angelmusic
The Phantom of the Opera	phantomopera
Prima Donna	primadonna
All I Ask of You	askofu
Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again	hereagain

All songs are composed by Charles Hart/ Andrew Lloyd Webber/Richard Stilgoe

MMS WALLPAPERS

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sharelove
poluvme
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THEMES

To download Handset Themes:
1. Log on to the SMART wapsite at http://wap.smart.com.ph
2. Go to Amazing Stuff
3. Go to Handset Themes
4. Go to Movie, then click on PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5. Select corresponding phone model
6. Select PHANTOM OF THE OPERA theme of choice

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These will steal your heart away!

Subscribe or download to receive movie tones and images for a chance to win a **BMW 120i Sports Edition** or ₱2,000,000 in cash.

Prestige Cars BMW Makati

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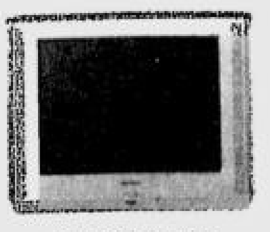

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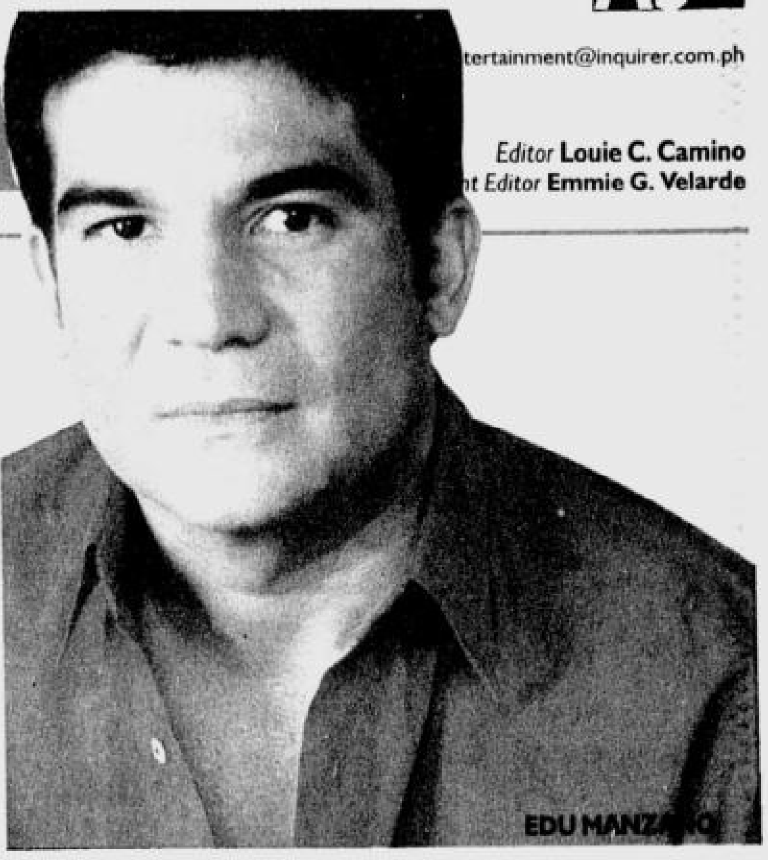
BONG REVILLA

Bong-Edu rift widens

Senator says Manzano should attend budget hearings, or else ...


EDU MANZANO

By Nini Valera

ACTOR and Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. has warned that approval of the whole budget of the Philippines could be delayed if Optical Media Board chair Edu Manzano failed to show up at the ongoing budget hearings at the Senate.

"The problem here is, if he (Manzano) doesn't attend again tomorrow, all the budgets would not be ratified by the Senate immediately (sic)," Revilla pointed out during a free-wheeling press conference in his office on Wednesday night.

Word reached Revilla's office that Manzano had skipped the budget hearing for the OMB to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

Another version had Manzano leaving—he was at the Senate earlier—for a hosting job at the World Trade Center, just a stone's throw away.

In a cell phone conversation with INQUIRER Entertainment, also on Wednesday night, Manzano said, "I am willing to return if the hearing would be continued. I am just here at the World Trade Center, a walking distance from the Senate."

The actor attended the Presidential Awards for Performance Excellence ceremonies, an event sponsored by Jollibee.

He explained: "They kept pushing back [the hearing schedule], telling us we're sixth on the [agenda]. At 7 p.m., I was going to this event at the World Trade Center, [but] I left word that as soon as it was OMB's turn ... I would [go back] to the Senate."

Not interfering

Manzano was supposed to be on call for the Senate budget hearings which started at 10 a.m. Manzano arrived at Revilla's office at about 11 a.m., but later left for the Westin Philippine Plaza to meet with his regional counterparts to discuss details of the "Conference on Optical Disc Piracy in Southeast Asia," scheduled in Manila next month.

In the evening, anticipating that the OMB would be called in for the ongoing budget hearing, Revilla decided to hold in his office a press conference scheduled elsewhere earlier.

But the OMB's turn didn't come that night.

"*Hindi sa nakikialam ako* (Not that I'm interfering)," said Revilla. "But I am the chairman of the congressional joint Oversight Committee [which has jurisdiction over] the Optical Media Board. It is my responsibility and duty to oversee the activities of the OMB, its chairman, included."

For several weeks now, tabloids have reported a brewing feud between Manzano and Revilla over the OMB's supposed nonperformance as an anti-piracy body. When he resigned as head of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB, predecessor of OMB) in 2004 to run as senator, Revilla recommended Manzano for the post.

"For me not to look into the affairs of the OMB would be tantamount to dereliction of duty," Revilla stressed. "It's also my job.

"I am doing this because I am concerned for the industry. They (industry leaders) still say that the industry's biggest problem is piracy."

Revilla emphasized that he had nothing personal against Manzano, whom he referred to as a friend.

"I recommended him to the President because I believed in his guts," he said.

In Edu's hands

But the senator admitted that he was not satisfied with Manzano's performance. "At this point... he has to prove himself. The reason I endorsed him in the first place was that I believed he could handle it. I still do. He might have problems on the job [which] he should tell us so we could help him."

Manzano has been OMB chair for more than a year.

Revilla said he wasn't the only one disappointed in Manzano's performance. "It didn't come only from [producer Espiridion] Laxa, but also from Laurice [Guillen], Richard [Gomez], and many more movie people... during a hearing with the industry leaders about three weeks ago."

In that hearing, Revilla lamented, it "appeared that the film industry lacked government support."

"That was the sentiment of everybody [who attended] the hearing," Revilla re-

BONG-EDU/ A2

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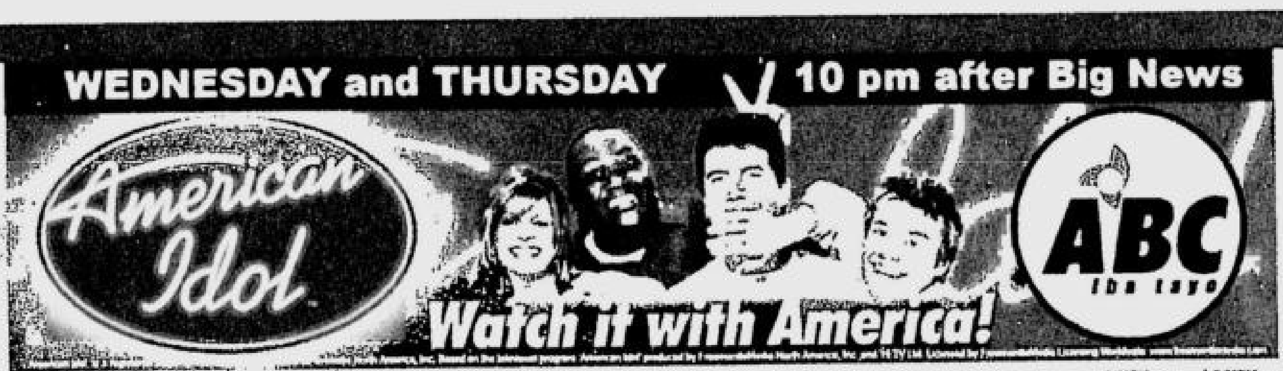

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Friday, February 11, 2005

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Masked Rider Ryuki		Gatekeepers	TV Patrol		Spirits	Krystala	'Til Death Do Us Part	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	Search For A Star In A Million			Insider
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pambansa	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA		PBA		Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin		Starstruck	Stairway To Heaven	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Just For Laughs	Enterprise		Monk		Dead Zone		Newswatch Now	Adboard Golf		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Chowtime Na!		V League				Pulis Na Palaban	IBC News Tonite	GMA The Working President	
Solar		WWE Velocity		Thunder Box		Rozol	Ozzy & Drix	Mucha Lucha!	Avengers	Stargate SG1		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		Wow	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix		100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd				Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		What I Like About You	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Simple Life 2	Iron Chef		Fame		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Change of Heart	Change of Heart
Cinema One		Eto Na Naman Ako				Kahit Isang Saglit				Gregor Butch Belgica Story			Review Night	Boyong Mañalac (Hoodlum Terminator)				Out of Control Madness	
Studio 23				Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius		Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup	Spider-Man The Animated Series			Playing It Straight		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Yes Dear		
AXN		30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	WRC 2004 Rally XS	Rated X	Cold Squad		Desperado			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Really Caught In The Act		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		NG See		Rolex Awards				The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Built For The Kill		Myths Of The Fist		Top 5		Megastructures		Secret China	
Solar Sports		Copenhagen Masters MxD Final		ATP Heineken Open '05 SFinals1	Sounds of the Finals		NBA Fan Fav: Rockets @ Timberwolves '99					In This Corner		NBA Game Sacramento @ Seattle					GWS ep.6-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		New York Nick	Lifestyle		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	Back To Basics	Alko	
HBO			Maria's Lovers (3:45 PM)				Lone Star State Of Mind (5:35 PM)			Multiplicity (7:05 PM)				Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets					Analyze That (11:35PM)
Star Movies			Hackers			She's The One (5:15 PM)				Starship Troopers				X2, X-Men United				The Prophecy (11:15PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Codename: Kids Next Door	Hi Hi Puffy Ami Yumi	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Zoids: Fuzors	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Megas XLR	Aqua Teen (11:15PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		World Pool League '04 Warsaw, Poland		Atlantic Coast Conference North Carolina vs. Duke				Atlantic Coast Conf. Nc State vs. Wake Forest				Sportscenter Taiwan	Eng. Premier League Preview	2004 Taiwan World Pool Championship Taiwan					Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	George Of The Jungle 2			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	The Adventures Of The Great Mouse Detective	
Cinemax				Wheelmen			Scent Of A Woman					Detonator			Hook				
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Boyfriend For Christmas				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Picking Up & Dropping Off			Child Of Our Time (10:35PM)	Crime Night	Judging Amy (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Junkyard Wars		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery			
MTV Philippines		Whatever Things	Non-Stop Hits	Non-Stop Hits						MTV Harana	Non-Stop Hits	MTV Brand New	Be Seen @ MTV	MTV Asia Hitlist		Newlyweds	The Assistant	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus						Superbowl XXXIX						World Poker Tour ep 5 Sn Francisco				Inside the PGA	FBR Open Highlights		AT&T Pebble Beach Nat'l Pro-AM Day1
EWTN	Does The Church Still Teach That	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Image Of God	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Search And Rescue	Your Call	EWTN Gallery	Life on The Rock Encore		Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Defending Life	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

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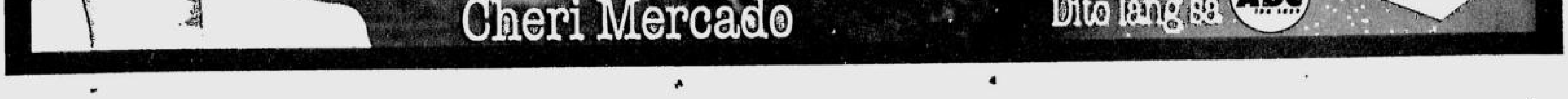

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

JOB Market
we wa
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRI

Bong-Edu rift widens

From page A1

vealed. "Piracy is not the only problem, but it is still the biggest. If we solve that, the industry will regain its strength. The hope of the industry is in Edu's hands."

Manzano's hands might have been tied with the limited budget of the OMB—only P26 million last year—and the late approval of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the agency.

But Revilla clarified that even if the IRR of the OMB had not been approved, existing laws under the Video and Regulatory Board (VRB), the OMB's predecessor, would apply.

"The rules and regulations of the VRB can still be used in the absence of the IRR," explained Revilla. "The OMB is after illegal activities and products. *Kahit saan natin dalhin yan, sa korte man, ilegal ang hinuhuli mo* (No matter where we bring it, even in court, it would still stand since you're busting illegal activities)."

During his time as VRB chair, Revilla said, he also confiscated pirated music materials, which was not covered by the VRB.

Revilla's strategy

"What I did was sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the music industry so that I could also go after the illegal producers of music," Revilla said.

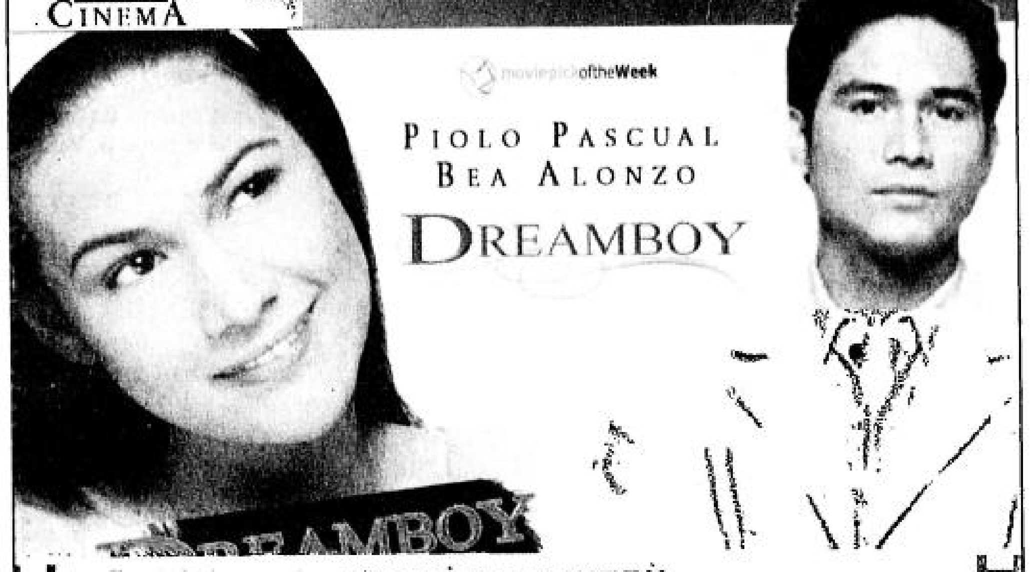
Accomplishment reports of both the VRB under Revilla and the OMB under Manzano showed that VRB activities in one year and six months resulted in the confiscation of pirated products and replicating equipment worth P5.6 Billion—compared to the P100 million worth of the same under the OMB.

Revilla conceded that Manzano's funds might not be enough to support anti-piracy activities that run into millions. "Since the Senate cannot increase the OMB's budget—the move must come from the Lower House—I wrote the President a letter requesting at least P50 million in intelligence funds for the OMB," he revealed.

"During my time, I also lacked funds. But I still did my job. I lobbied to have more funds. If you show you can perform your job, you can request for additional funds and this would be granted," he added.

DID YOU KNOW...

If **Luke Mejares** had his way, his daughter Akeisha Mikkel would never become a singer like himself. "It's a complicated world," he told Inquirer Entertainment. "But if she insists, I have no choice but to be her stage father."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2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:20 FS / 11:50 MF / 2:35 / 5:20
8:05 / 10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 1:10/ END

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5 ALFIE
6 ELEKTRA
7 DREAMBOY
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 DREAMBOY
11 SHALL WE DANCE
12 SALSA smcinemaexclusive

sm city fairview
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ELEKTRA
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 DREAMBOY
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 WITHOUT THE PADDLE
10 SHALL WE DANCE
11 KUNG FU HUSTLE
12 DREAMBOY

sm city north edsa
1 ELEKTRA
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city manila
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 ELEKTRA
3 ALFIE
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 DREAMBOY
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11 DREAMBOY
12 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city sta. mesa
1 DREAMBOY
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
9 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10 ELEKTRA

sm city southmall
1 DREAMBOY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 ELEKTRA
7 DREAMBOY
8 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
9 WITHOUT A PADDLE
10 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city bicutan
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 DREAMBOY
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 ELEKTRA
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 DREAMBOY
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 MAD HOUSE
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 ELEKTRA
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city baguio
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN KUNG
3 FU HUSTLE
4 DREAMBOY

sm city batangas
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN KUNG
3 FU HUSTLE
4 DREAMBOY

sm city dasmari as
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 DREAMBOY
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

sm city bacoor
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 ELEKTRA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 DREAMBOY
7 WITHOUT A PADDLE
8 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city marilao
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ELEKTRA
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 DREAMBOY

sm city lucena
1 ELEKTRA
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 DREAMBOY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 MAD HOUSE
7 DREAMBOY
8 ELEKTRA

sm city iloilo
1 RACING STRIPES
2 RESERVED
3 DREAMBOY
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE
6 ELEKTRA
7 RESERVED
8 ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE

sm city davao
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 HELLWOLF
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ELEKTRA
5 DREAMBOY
6 NED KELLY

sm city cagayan de oro
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2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

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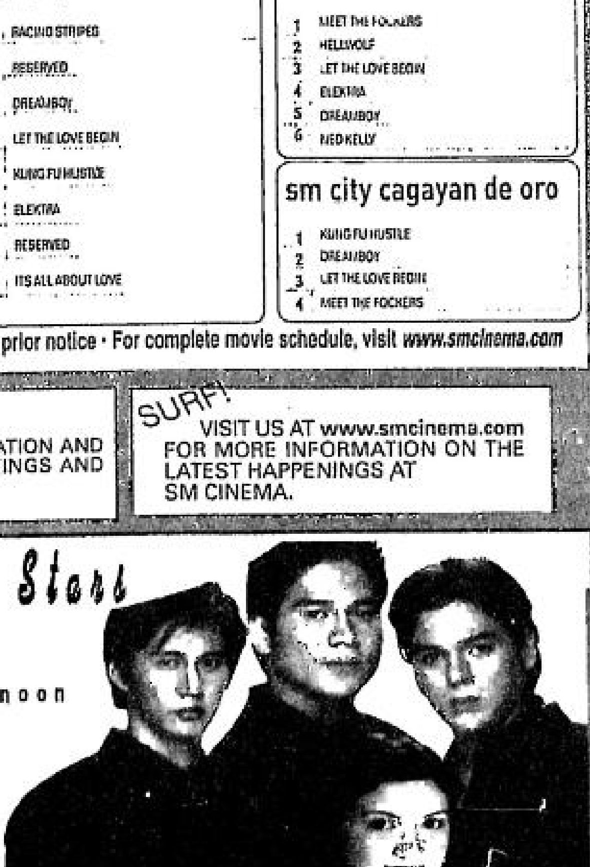
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"I LOVED IT!
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A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
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'Matrix' Laurence Fishburne is brilliantly ruthless." -MAXIM MAGAZINE
ETHAN HAWKE
LAURENCE FISHBURNE
ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

"REBEL" with a cause now

Yearlong toast to James Dean

LOS ANGELES—Friends and former co-stars of James Dean shared bittersweet memories of the late screen legend on what would have been his 74th birthday, in a tribute that begins a yearlong celebration leading to his 75th.

Dean, whose fame skyrocketed following his starring role in "Rebel Without a Cause," died in 1955 at age 24 when his Porsche Spyder collided with another car in the central California town of Cholame.

One of Dean's fans, Martin Sheen, said Dean's performance in "East of Eden," which he first saw as a young boy the year Dean died, inspired him to become an actor.

"All of his movies had a profound effect on my life, in my work, and all of my generation," Sheen said. "He transcended cinema acting. It was no longer acting, it was human behavior."

He had attitude

Jane Withers, who co-starred with Dean in "Giant," said working with the sometimes aloof actor was the highlight of her career, but she had to get past his attitude early on.

"He acted like a little kid," Withers said. "I didn't put up with any guff, and because of it, we had a very warm relationship.

Dean's aloofness was a product of his desire to remain focused on his work, suggested Earl Holliman, who was also in "Giant."

"Jimmy didn't care what people thought of him," Holliman said. "He said what was important was what was on the screen."

Martin Landau, who got to know Dean in the early 1950s when Dean moved to New York City from his native Marion, Indiana, to become an actor, recalled meeting him at an open casting call.

Rebellious

"We got along immediately," Landau said. "He was my closest friend."

Landau dismissed the view that Dean's rebellious nature was destined to drive him to an early grave.

"We had talked about growing older," Landau said.

The photographer Phil Stern, who captured a famous shot of Dean with a turtleneck covering half his face, disagreed.

"Dean was very prescient because he structured his career in such a way that he passed away in a way that precluded the possibility of people seeing him as a pot-bellied, bald man," Stern said.

Dean's image as rebel still resonates with marketers.

Still marketable

Warner Brothers plans to release "Giant," "Rebel" and "East of Eden" on DVD this year. And Dean's image will adorn two NASCAR racing cars this summer.

Plays based on his films will be staged in several cities, and his hometown plans to amp up its annual festival commemorating the star, which typically draws up to 60,000 people.

"I invite you to our area," Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold said, "where cool was born." *AP*

> Martin Sheen: James Dean's movies had a profound effect on my life, in my work. He [elevated] acting to human behavior

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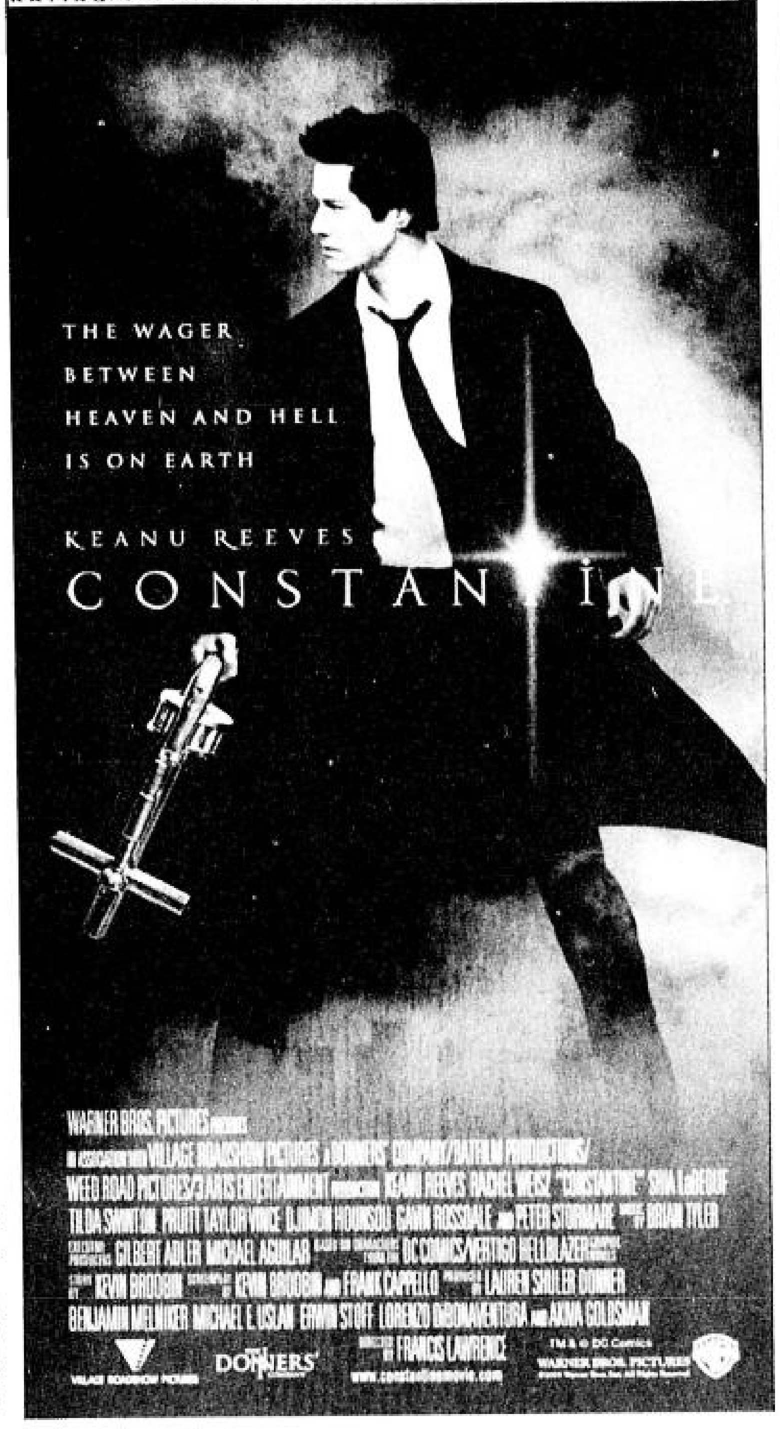
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
GP

2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:25, 11:15
PG-13

3 DREAMBOY
10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05
GP

4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00
GP

OPENS FEBRUARY 16
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution for parents bringing the kids.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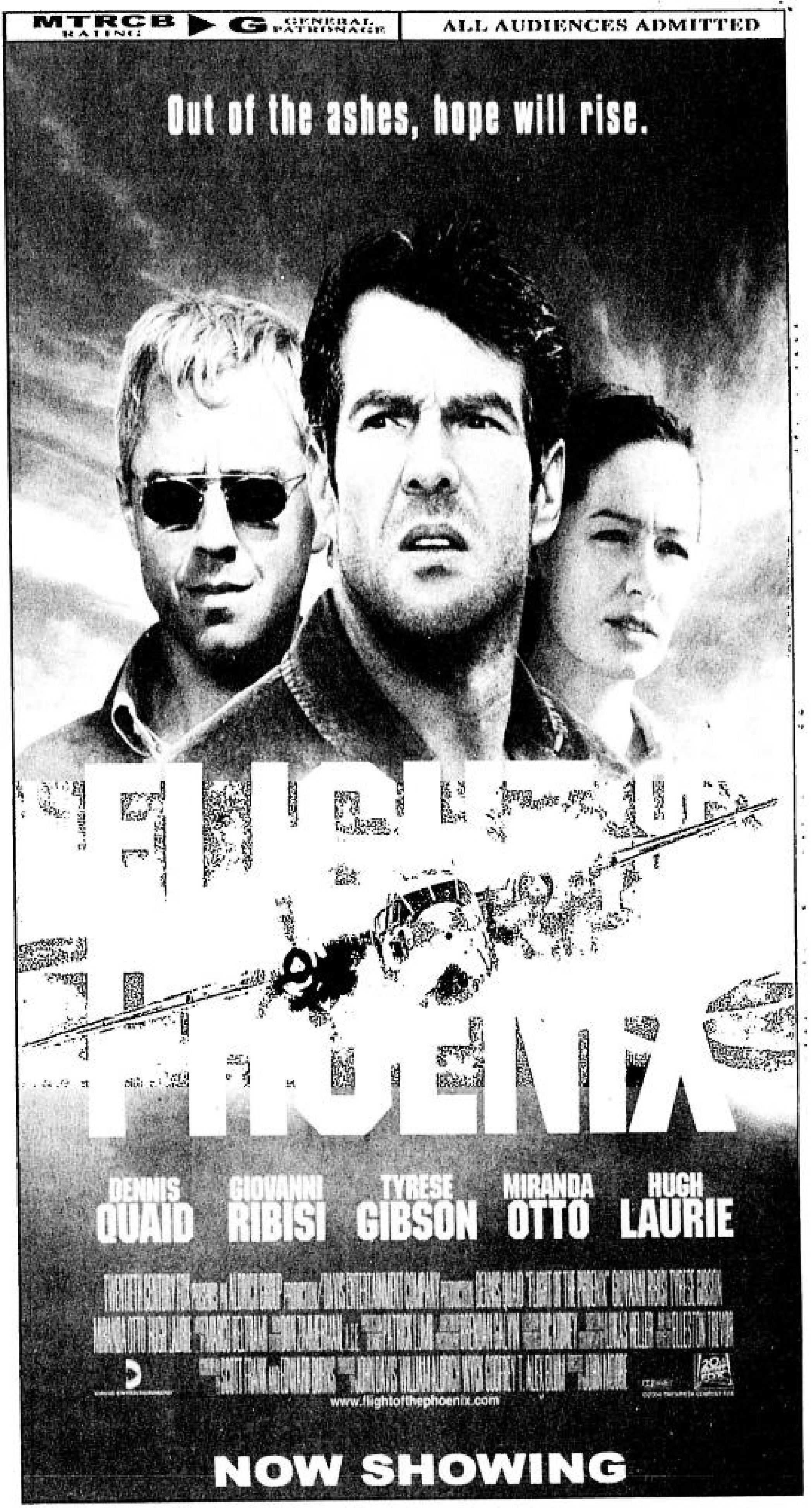
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I'M HERE, WITH YOU, BESIDE YOU,
TO GUARD YOU AND TO GUIDE YOU...

SAY YOU LOVE ME
EVERY WAKING MOMENT,
TURN MY HEAD WITH
TALK OF SUMMERTIME...

SAY YOU NEED ME WITH YOU,
NOW AND ALWAYS...
PROMISE ME THAT ALL YOU SAY IS TRUE --
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LET ME BE YOUR SHELTER,
LET ME BE YOUR LIGHT.
YOU'RE SAFE, NO-ONE WILL FIND YOU --
YOUR FEARS ARE FAR BEHIND YOU...

ALL I WANT IS FREEDOM,
A WORLD WITH NO MORE NIGHT...
AND YOU, ALWAYS BESIDE ME,
TO HOLD ME AND TO HIDE ME...

THEN SAY YOU'LL SHARE WITH ME
ONE LOVE, ONE LIFETIME...
LET ME LEAD YOU
FROM YOUR SOLITUDE...

SAY YOU NEED ME WITH YOU HERE,
BESIDE YOU...
ANYWHERE YOU GO, LET ME GO TOO --
CHRISTINE, THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

SAY YOU'LL SHARE WITH ME ONE LOVE,
ONE LIFETIME...
SAY THE WORD
AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU....

SHARE EACH DAY WITH ME,
EACH NIGHT, EACH MORNING...

SAY YOU LOVE ME...
YOU KNOW I DO...
LOVE ME --
THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

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Lyrics: Charles Hart
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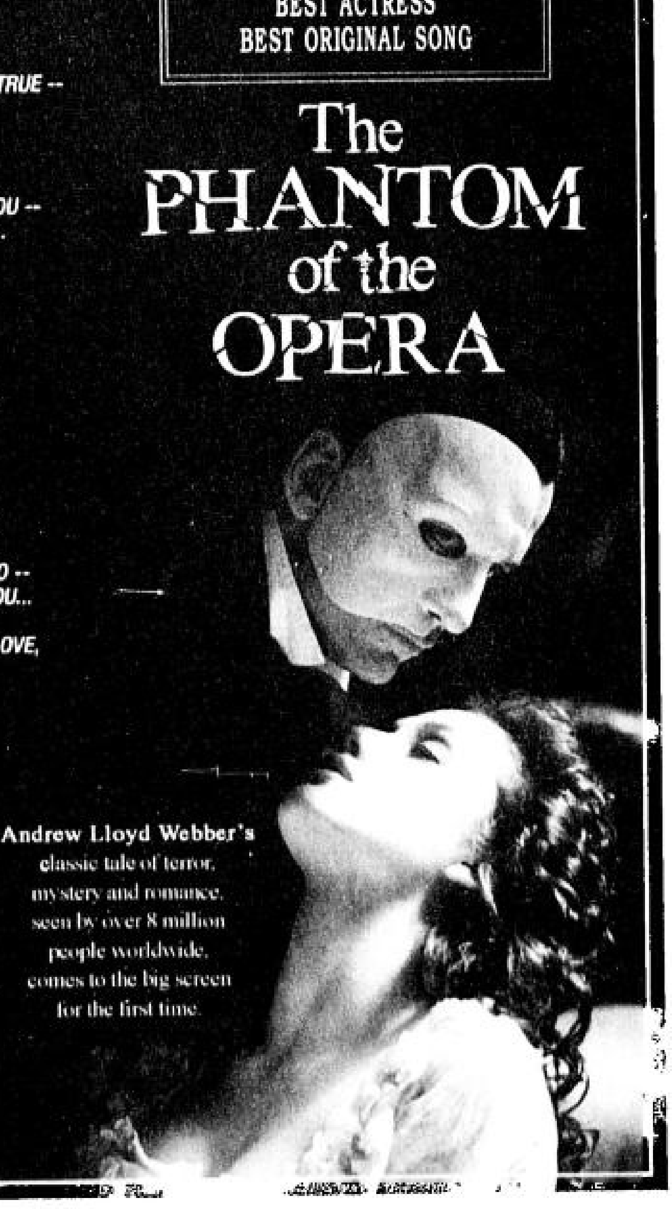

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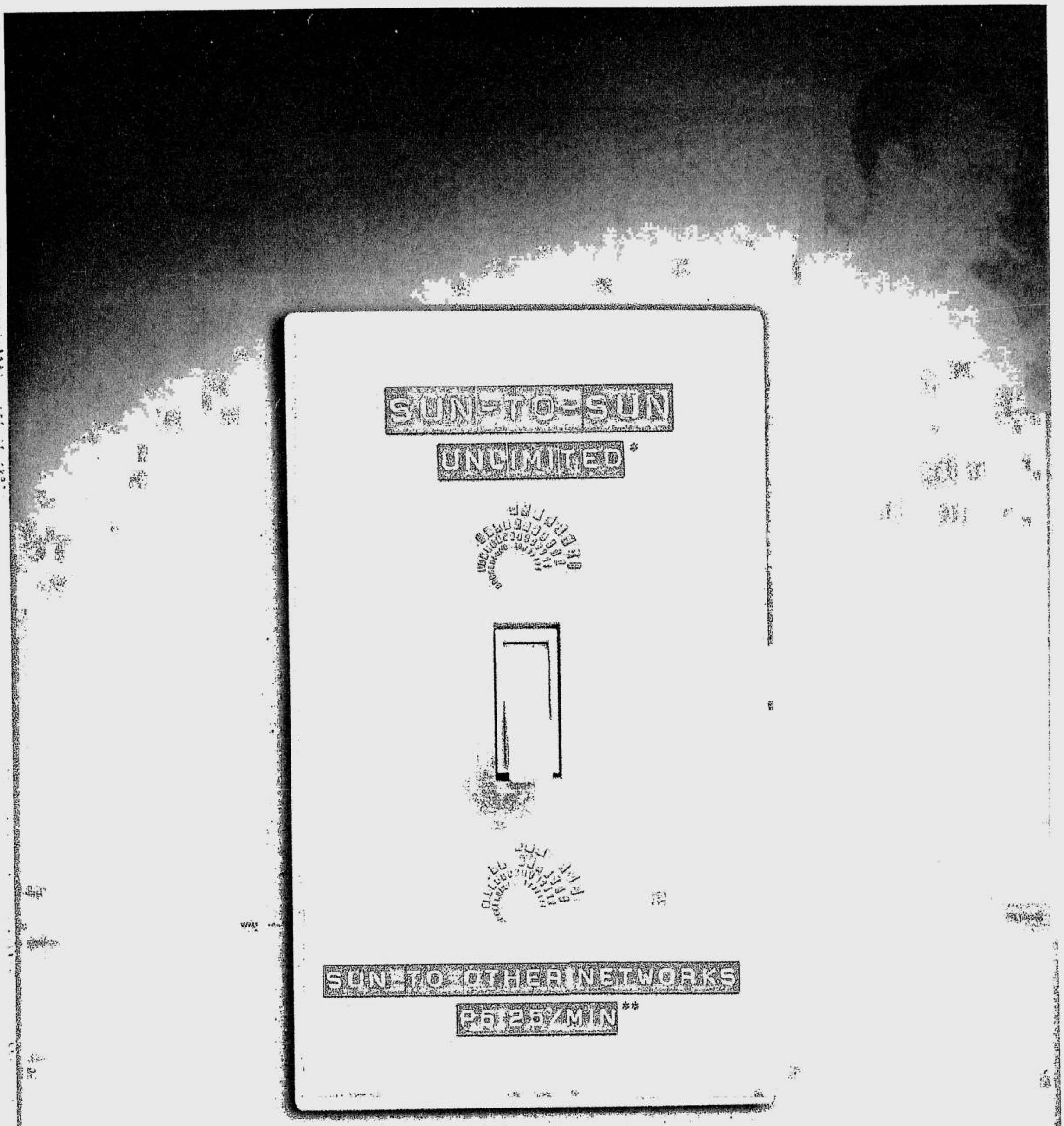
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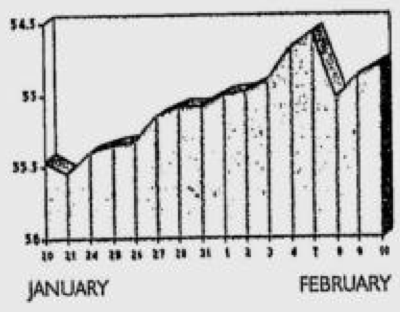

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As of 5 p.m., Feb. 10, 2005

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Shares end at 5-year high

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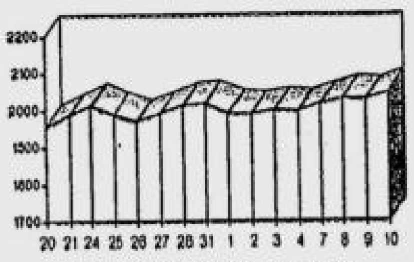


(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARES yesterday closed higher, with a surge in property stocks helping lift the main index to its best finish in over five years amid the country's improving investment outlook, traders said.

The government's progress in fiscal reforms and the Supreme Court's ruling in December allowing foreign investors to control local mining projects helped bolster investor sentiment, traders said.

"It seems investors continue to be drawn to the market on the improving investment outlook," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index finished up 19.38 points, or one percent, at 2,048.24, its highest close since Jan. 24, 2000, when the index ended at 2,055.56. Wednesday, the index gave up 0.1 percent.

The commercial-industrial, banks and financial services, property and mining sub-indexes closed higher, while the all shares and oil sub-indicators ended lower.

Gainers led decliners 73 to 27, while 41 stocks were unchanged.

AP

By Christine A. Gaylican

MERCHANDISE exports last year rose 9.3 percent to $39.6 billion from $36.23 billion in 2003, the National Statistics Office yesterday said.

This, however, fell short of the government's growth target of 10 percent for the year, as the country's export performance in December left much to be desired.

Export receipts in the last month of 2004 grew by only 2.9 percent to $3.27 billion from year-ago level, the lowest growth posted since December 2003 and a sharp drop from November's 19.5 percent growth, the agency said.

Electronics exports, which accounted for 68.3 percent of the total export revenue in December, rose 8.3 percent to $2.23 billion from year-ago level. For the whole year, electronics exports rose 10.2 percent to $26.44 billion.

Articles of apparel and clothing accessories remained the country's second top dollar earner with a combined share of 4.8 percent of total exports in December, with receipts of $158.6 million.

Japan remained the Philippines' top export destination, accounting for 19.3 percent of total export revenue in December.

Shipments to the US accounted for 15.6 percent of total receipts, while those to the Netherlands ranked third at 10.8 percent, the statistics office said.

Newly appointed Trade and Industry Secretary Juan B. Santos said the country's exports had better chances of improving this year with non-traditional export products gaining wider market acceptance and Philippine products started reaching new destinations.

Product and market diversification should be pursued aggressively, said Santos in a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER Business Staff last Wednesday.

Earnings from all agro-based products in December amounted to $141.92 million, down 16.7 percent from $170.42 million in 2003.

Income from mineral products rose by 34.3 percent to $71.44 million from $53.21 million, while receipts from special transactions declined by 55.7 percent to $57.99 million from $130.93 million.

Petroleum products registered earnings of $39.21 million, while forest products contributed $3 million.

Bangko Sentral keeps policy rates steady

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board yesterday decided to keep the central bank's key policy rates steady for the 18th month in a row, following the strengthening of the peso against the dollar and in view of expectations that inflation will be kept at manageable levels.

The policy rates were kept at 6.75 percent for overnight borrowing and 9 percent for overnight lending, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Buenaventura said the peso had been gaining largely because of the weakening of the dollar against all major currencies.

The peso yesterday closed at 54.79 to the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System, slightly up from Wednesday's 54.80.

"The only difference this time is that we went along with the flow, unlike last year (when the peso did not go along the regional trend) because of election jitters and concerns over possible credit rating downgrades," the BSP chief said.

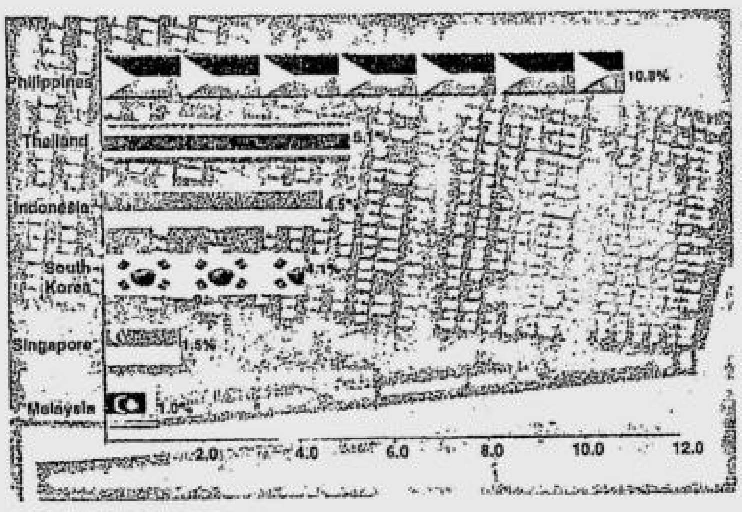
The BSP said the outlook on inflation reflected the assessment that the uptrend in consumer prices was largely transitory, attributed exclusively to supply-side factors such as food and energy supply side shocks.

"During its review of the prevailing macroeconomic and financial conditions, the MB noted that the outlook for inflation over the policy horizon remains essentially unchanged. While the current inflation is fairly high, future inflation is expected to decline," Buenaventura said.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Stock exchange performance
(end-Dec 2004 & end-Jan 2005, in percent)



Source: Philippine Stock Exchange Research and International Affairs Department

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange outperformed other Asian stock markets last January. The Philippine Composite Index grew by 10.8 percent to 2,019.56 last month from 1,822.83 in December. Year-on-year, the index jumped 33.9 percent while trading volume surged by 877.2 percent to 71.9 billion shares from only 7.4 billion shares in January 2004.

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DA to impose strict product standards for virgin coco oil

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is set to impose minimum quality standards for the production of virgin coconut oil to increase the product's chances of being accepted in the global export market.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said quality standards were needed if the Philippines was to take advantage of the growing global demand for virgin coconut oil.

The Philippine Coconut Authority was tasked to draft the interim minimum quality standards, with help from the Department of Science and Technology, University of the Philippines Los Baños-Biotech, UP Diliman and the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS), and members of the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines (Vcopta).

Yap said the implementation of a common Philippine National Standard (PNS) for virgin coconut oil would send positive signals to the market that the industry was serious about meeting international standards of quality and safety.

"Standardization of procedures is an important step that will assure customers that the Philippines' virgin coconut oil is safe," added Paulo Mamangun, president of the VCOPTA.

Demand for virgin coconut oil is growing as more countries turn to virgin coconut oil as an alternative food and health supplement.

"Based on our estimates, from 100,000 liters exported in 2003, shipment rose 100 percent to 200,000 liters in 2004. This will be sustained this year," said Mamangun.

There are about 23 virgin coconut oil manufacturers in the country, each one following its own product quality standards.

"If we are to really grow as an industry and aim for the export market, there should be harmonized standards that our buyers could expect. We cannot afford to have individual standards because just one bad shipment could ruin all our efforts," said Mamangun.

PCA deputy administrator for research, development and extension Carlos Carpio agreed that setting quality standards was needed if the fledgling industry was to reach its full potential.

"It is a very promising export industry and realizing the need to come up with quality standards should prevent other manufacturers from taking short cuts in their processes, or even adulterating the product to cut costs," said Carpio.

BAFPS director Gilberto Layese added that the standards should conform with international food quality standards.

P45,000 PER FILIPINO

RP debt hit ₱3.8T in Nov. '04

By Michelle V. Remo

AMATONG

RELENTLESS borrowing to cover the country's budget deficit increased national government debt to P3.8 trillion as of November last year.

This means that each of the roughly 84 million Filipinos owes P45,000 to local and foreign creditors.

Data from the Department of Financ showed that P1.99 trillion of the total debt came from domestic sources, and the remaining P1.81 trillion from abroad.

The government usually borrows locally through the regular auction of Treasury bills and bonds.

Foreign debt, on the other hand, are incurred through the issuance of sovereign bonds in the international credit market, and forging of official development assistance deals with multilateral and bilateral lending agencies.

The November debt level was slightly higher by 1.2 percent, or P46.64 billion, than the P3.75 trillion recorded in October.

The increase was due to some P32.58 billion in fresh domestic borrowings and another P14.06 billion from abroad.

Foreign debt was computed using the P56.1-to-a-dollar exchange rate during the period.

The DOF said that only 15.5 percent of the latest debt figure was in the form of short-term liabilities, and 27.4 percent was medium-term. More than half of the debt figure, or 57.1 percent, will mature over the long term.

Outgoing Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong earlier said the profile of the country's debts, most of which have long-term maturities, puts the government far from the much-feared fiscal crisis.

She explained that the possibility of defaulting on its loans is remote as only a small percentage will mature in the next few years.

This puts the Philippines in a different situation from Argentina, which suffered a fiscal crisis in the '90s, when it defaulted on its mostly short-term loans.

The DOF said it has adopted the policy of "opportunistic" borrowing, which means taking advantage of long-term debt facilities.

This also means borrowing more from domestic sources to avoid foreign exchange risk.

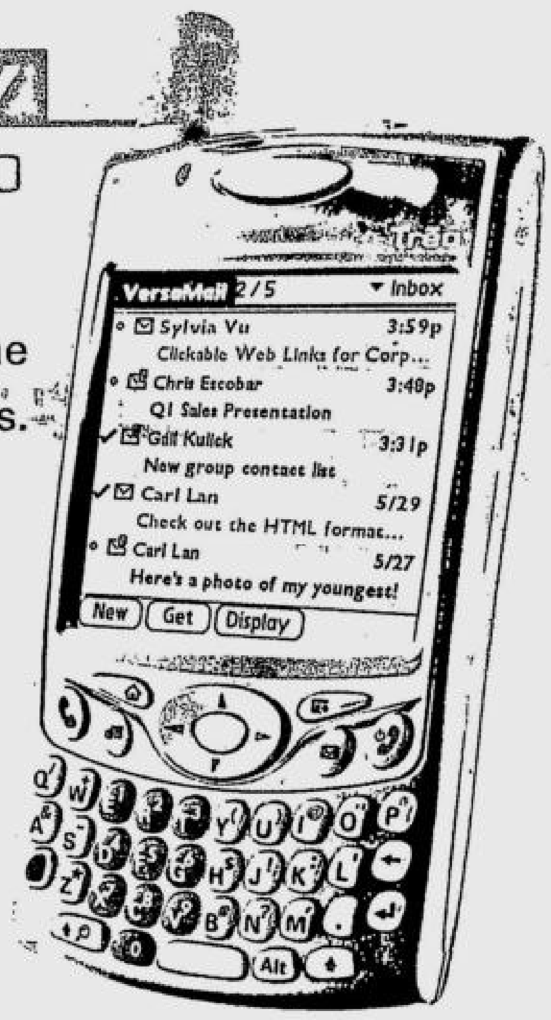
The government has no choice but to keep on borrowing as its expenses continue to outpace revenues.

The DOF said that in case of borrowing from foreign sources, it prefers ODAs over commercial loans, since these carry lower interest rates.

The government has been in a deficit since the late '90s.

The government, however, has proposed several measures, such as an increase in the value-added tax rate, to increase revenues and narrow the budget gap.

The Arroyo administration plans to close the budget gap on or before 2010, the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.



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Honda says bike market promising

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NEW P1.3-billion production plant of motorcycle manufacturer Honda Philippines Inc. (HPI) will have the capacity to produce 500,000 units a year, with room to expand to up to 1 million units.

Construction of the plant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, will start in March, and will be in operation by January next year.

HPI president Yasuhiro Oyama said in a speech yesterday that the new plant will not only improve the company's edge over the competition, but will also open opportunities for the country.

"When fully operational, the new assembly plant will generate an influx of new business possibilities across the nation. These will be in the form of new jobs and increased consumer demand," he said.

HPI currently has a production facility in Parañaque City, which produces up to 150,000 units of motorcycles.

With the establishment of the new plant, all its production processes in Parañaque will be transferred to Batangas.

Over the past four years, Oyama said HPI became the leader in the growing motorcycle market, cornering a 52-percent share of the pie.

The company last year sold a record 204,000 units, he said, 56 percent higher than in 2003.

In terms of production, HPI reached a cumulative milestone of 1 million units earlier this month. The company started producing motorcycles in 1983.

Oyama said the local motorcycle market should grow to at least 1 million units in the coming years, making production capacity expansion a necessity.

"It is for this reason that Honda is enhancing its production capacity by establishing the new plant to swiftly respond to the increasing demand," he said.

The local motorcycle market grew 53 percent in 2004, hitting sales of 475,000 units. The market is expected to expand further to 600,000 units this year.

Apart from answering local demand, Oyama said HPI was also looking at exporting some of the motorcycles that would be produced in its new plant.

Ayala, racing club to develop Manila property

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) will team up with Manila Jockey Club, Inc. to develop a 6.5-hectare Manila property into a residential project.

Informed sources said Community Innovations Inc. (CII) and Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), both wholly-owned units of ALI submitted a proposal to the board of Manila Jockey for the joint development of Manila Jockey's 6.47-hectare property in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Manila Jockey will contribute the land, while CII and LPHI will provide the funds and the technical resources required to develop the project.

This project will be the first venture of CII and LPHI in Manila.

ALI sources could not immediately reveal the project cost and details of the proposal, but Manila Jockey confirmed that it approved the joint venture.

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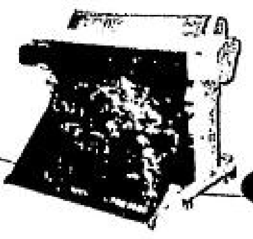

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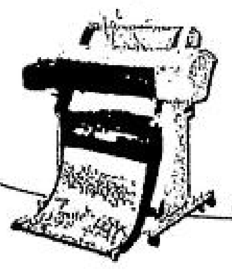

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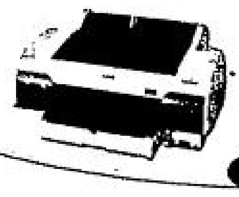

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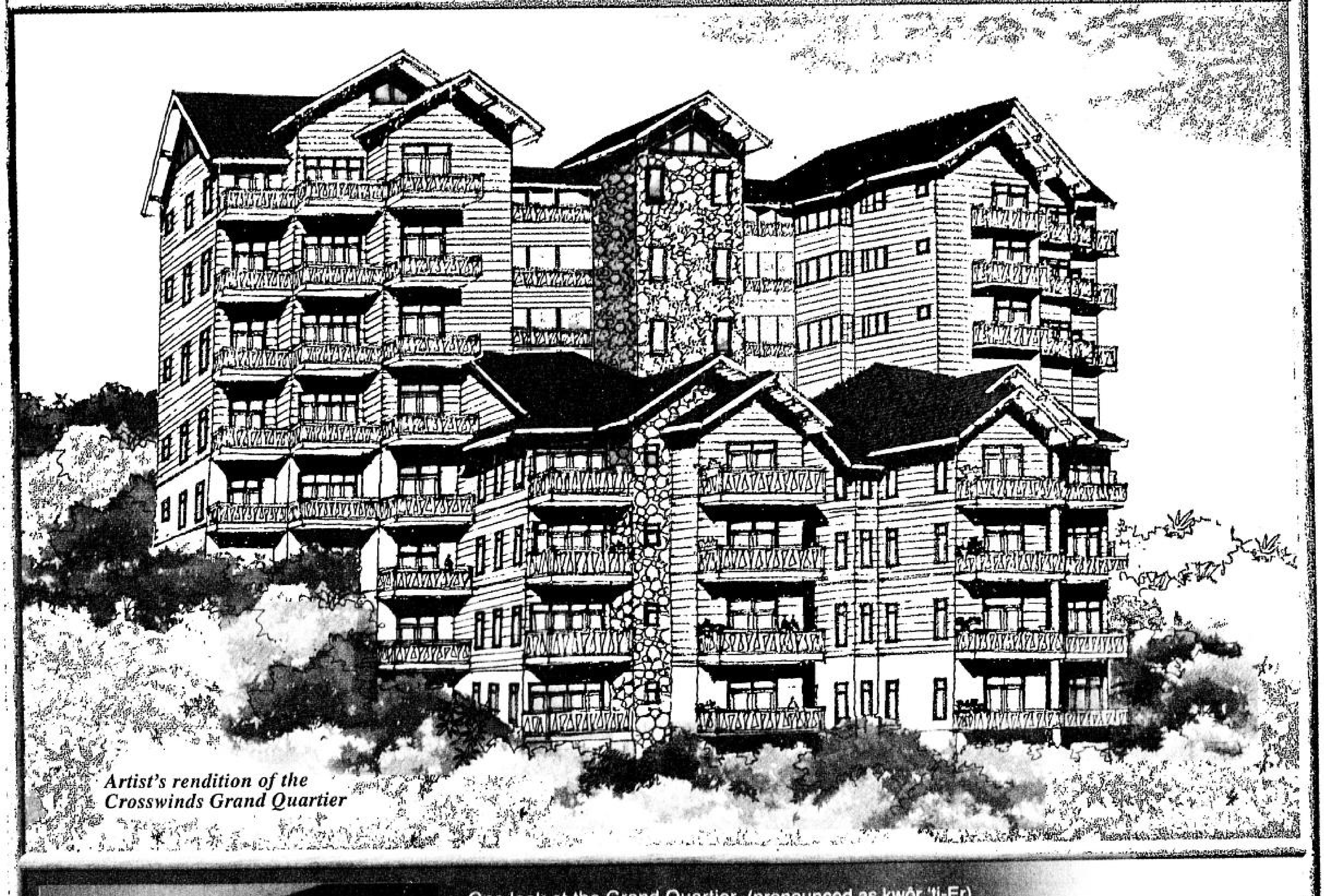

Artist's rendition of the Crosswinds Grand Quartier

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Training value-oriented youth for country's future

2nd L.E.A.P. Leaders Congress opens today

A joint project of the Rotary Club of Makati North and Inner Wheel Club of Makati North

MESSAGES

I would like to greet the prime movers of the 2nd L.E.A.P. Leaders Congress and give commendations to all concern for the noble task of molding the youth to become good leaders of tomorrow!

Awareness of situations in the community and with a guided knowledge on public service, will give assurance of a bright future to our dear Philippines.

Salute to all the participants!
Salute to the sponsors!
Salute to the Rotary Club of Makati North!
Salute to the Inner Wheel Club of Makati North!

ARACELI "Ely" J. DE VEYRA
National President
Inner Wheel Clubs of the Phils., Inc.

Greetings!

I would like to congratulate you for launching the 2nd League of Extraordinary and Admired Pilipino (LEAP) Leaders Congress that will be held on Friday, February 11, 2005.

The target participants of this very laudable and timely project are our youth, the source of potential leaders of the next generation. You couldn't have picked a more opportune time as we celebrate Rotary's centennial anniversary. The support we give our youth by way of endeavors like this will help prepare themselves to face the great challenges ahead and to develop their confidence to become world achievers.

Our youth needs us, let us give our guidance and the chance for a better life for they are the future of this world. That is the true meaning of Rotary service.

Yours sincerely in Rotary,

TONY QUILA
Centennial Governor
RI District 3830

I salute the Inner Wheel Club of Makati North and the Rotary Club of Makati North for their vision and drive to hold the 2nd L.E.A.P. Leaders Congress. I salute also the top graduating college students and their schools for deciding to participate in this existing and worthwhile endeavor.

Our country needs positive programs like this Congress especially during these difficult times when it is so easy to give up hope. I am optimistic that this congress will produce much enthusiasm and energy among the participants that we can look forward to a rainbow-filled tomorrow for our country, to a Philippines that will stand confident, accomplished and proud in the country of nations.

Let us all continue to work together and give hope! Mabuhay

Ma. LEONARDA "Baby" M. SANTOS
District Chairman, D381
Innner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, Inc.

Dear Participants:

Maganda ang Ating Bayan (Our country abounds with goodness and beauty)!
Magaling ang Pilipino (Pilipinos are and can be world class achievers)!
Nasa Ating Kamay ang Kinabukasan (We can build our own future)!

It is our hope that you, the youth who are participating in this congress, will take these realizations to heart as you begin your quest for a meaningful career. Whatever you decide to do, you can make a difference and help build a culture of excellence in our country by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Today, there is a strong emergence of the spirit of volunteerism in our country. Many groups from different sectors are investing time, energy, and personal resources to preach the gospel of hope and confidence in our innate ability as a people to rise from poverty and corruption. You too, can fan these flames with heroic acts of excellence and patriotic behavior. Sooner than we think, the soiled image of the Philippines today will fade from our collective consciousness and we can regain our pride in being Pilipinos.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Makati North, we thank you all for participating in this L.E.A.P. Leaders Congress. We pray and wish for your success in your chosen endeavors. At some point in your life's journey, it is our fondest hope that you will consider joining a Rotary Club in your community and support Rotary's vision of uplifting lives, bringing hope, and building a better world. Rotary celebrates its centennial year of service in February this year and looks forward to its continuous involvement with the youth in the next century.

Yours in Rotary Service,

RICARDO DELA TORRE
President
RC Makati North

A lot of great ideas are literally brewed over a cup of coffee. One such idea is the L.E.A.P. Congress which was brewed in a coffee shop two years ago. The first L.E.A.P. Congress was successfully mounted with great results. And today, we are on our 2nd L.E.A.P. Congress.

The seed of our objective - that of inspiring the youth to make a difference in our country - has been planted.

It is my honor to welcome this year's participants and to congratulate the organizers of this important gathering. In this Congress, the Inner Wheel Club of Makati North and the Rotary Club of Makati North, through our notable speakers and resource persons, aim to train our youth to be responsible citizens anchored on the core values we hold dear.

We hope that this Congress shall serve as an opportunity for the participants to hone their potential and give voice to their creativity.

May this Congress be another resounding success!

CORAZON DE JESUS-TAN
President, IWC Makati North

The 2nd L.E.A.P. (League of Extraordinary and Admired Pilipino) YOUTH LEADERS CONGRESS opens today at the Plenary Hall of Crossroad 77 Convention Center at 77 Mother Ignacia avenue corner Scout Reyes street, Quezon City.

The Congress is a one-day interactive learning experience with achievers and models of excellence organized jointly by the Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Clubs of Makati North as a Youth Service activity. Theme for this year's Congress is : "NASA ATING KAMAY AND KINABUKASAN."

Expected to attend are some 800 to 1000 top graduating college students from Metro Manila public and private colleges and universities. have been invited and 800 to 1000 delegates are expected to attend this Congress. Major sponsors are Globe Telecom, The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Air 21.

The objective of the Congress is to instill in the participants love of country, the right values as anchors for leadership, and inspire self confidence to find creative ways to make a difference in our country.

Through featured speakers, audio-visual presentations, and learning activities, the Congress will show that Magaling and Pilipino (Pilipinos are and can be world class achievers) and Maganda ang Pilipinas (beauty and goodness abound in our country). It is the expectation of the organizers that the participants take home a strong belief that they can build their own future and the future of our country.

During the opening ceremonies, Rotary District 3830 Governor Tony M. Quila will deliver brief remarks about Rotary's involvement with the Youth while Inner Wheel District 381 Chairman Baby Santos will deliver her message on behalf of Inner Wheel District 381.

How it started

The L.E.A.P. Youth Leaders Congress was conceptualized and launched last year under the term of then President Tina Herrera of The Inner Wheel Club of Makati North. Together with incumbent President Cora Tan and RC Makati North President Nominee Porong Herrera, they sensed that the future of our country lies in the development of the young who are still unjaded and uncorrupted and whose orientation and values can be properly directed to the ideals of excellence and patriotism.

This year, the Rotary Club of Makati North under the leadership of Centennial President Ric de la Torre is a joint partner and organizer of this Congress with The Inner Wheel Club of Makati North. The Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Clubs of Makati North share and support the vision of like-minded groups from different sectors to focus on the positive things about our country and the countless Filipinos who are everyday heroes doing "ordinary things extraordinarily well" in order to overcome the prevalent negative mindset about the Philippines and the Pilipino.

This LEAP Congress is an effort to keep the exuberant spirit of the Youth alive and burning with hope for a brighter future. Our youth are looking for heroes and they need to find these especially in themselves.

Rotary International

Youth Service is one of the major areas of concern of the Rotary movement. This month, as Rotary International, the world's oldest and most prestigious service club organization celebrates its centennial year, RC Makati North hopes that its L.E.A.P Leaders Congress can produce civic-minded leaders who can help in the country's development for future generations.

Founded in February 1905 by a lawyer named Paul Harris, the first Rotary Club was organized in Chicago USA. Today, after 100 years, Rotary has blossomed to more than 30,000 clubs in about 166 countries worldwide. Its members, now comprising over 1.2 million Rotarians, form a global network of business and professional leaders who volunteer their time, talent and personal resources to uplift lives, bring hope and help build a better world.

Rotary's motto, SERVICE ABOVE SELF exemplifies the humanitarian spirit of this volunteer organization. Rotary's finest achievement is the Polio Plus campaign, which was launched in 1984-85 to immunize children worldwide against Polio. On its Centennial year, Rotary can take pride in having rendered the world polio free.

Partners in Service

The Rotary Club of Makati North, chartered in 1973 and now on its 32nd year of service is one of 75 Rotary clubs in District 3830 (Makati, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Taguig and Palawan). Ricardo M. de la Torre is the current president of this club. To CELEBRATE ROTARY'S centennial year. the Club has undertaken varied and meaningful community service projects.

Among these activities are1) feeding 300 malnourished children at F. Benitez Elementary School III for six months, 2) providing medicines for indigent patients at the emergency ward of Philippine General Hospital for a year through funding from sister clubs RC Sha Alam in Malaysia and RC Raffles City in Singapore and a matching grant from Rotary International; 3) partnering with Gawad Kalinga to build 20 houses for the poor; 4) building a deepwell water system at a Public Elementary School in Payatas jointly with RC Makati Metro; and 5) planting trees at La Mesa Dam and undertaking a computer based literacy program with other D3830 Rotary Clubs.

On the other hand, the Inner Wheel Club of Makati North was chartered in 1999 under District 381 under the leadership of its Charter President Vicky Magadia. Its membership is composed mostly of spouses of RC Makati North Rotarians. Ms. Cora J. Tan is the current President.

IWC Makati North is the principal partner in service of RC Makati North helping out in Rotary's community service projects. They also undertake projects on their own like adopting the Pook Uno community in Quezon City which they support through livelihood programs, health education. medical and dental care, and story telling for school children.

The Inner Wheel Club of Makati North also supports special children at Stepping Stone Learning Center and Busilak na Paglingap. The International Inner Wheel theme this year is "Work Together And Give Hope."

LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY & ADMIRED PILIPINO (L.E.A.P.) LEADERS CONGRESS

February 11, 2005, Crossroad 77 Convention Center
Mother Ignacia St cor Scout Reyes, Quezon City

THEME: NASA ATING KAMAY ANG KINABUKASAN!

PROGRAMME

7:30 AM	REGISTRATION
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Opening Ceremonies
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Program Overview & Objectives/Ground rules
9:00 - 9:40 AM	SPEAKER 1: Emily Abrera "The Filipino Youth Now: Pressures and Challenges, Choices They Have to Make"
9:40 - 10:20 AM	SPEAKER 2: Prof. Onofre Pagsanghan "Values: Anchors for Leadership"
10:20 - 10:40 AM	Interaction with Delegates
10:40 - 12:20 PM	Pusong Pinoy: SPEAKER 3: Daniel Macabitas SPEAKER 4: Dylan Wilk Interaction with Emcees/Delegates
12:20 - 1:20 PM	LUNCH & BOOTH VISIT
1:20 - 1:30 PM	Action Songs & Dancing
1:30 - 2:50 PM	The Filipino Can!!! SPEAKER 5: Dickoy Magdaraog SPEAKER 6: Patricia Evangelista Interaction with Emcees and Delegates
2:50 - 3:50 PM	BREAK, Small Group Sharing & Reporting
3:50 - 4:30 PM	CLOSING SPEAKER : Sen. Richard Gordon Finding Your Gift to the Philippines
4:30 - 4:50 PM	DIFFERENT GIFTS, ONE MOVEMENT A Musical Experience of Unity in Diversity
4:50 - 5:20 PM	TARA NA! SAMA AKO! Symbolic Signing in & Certificate Distribution

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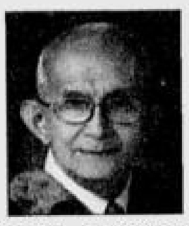
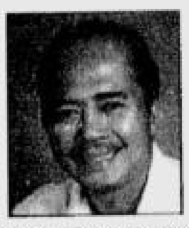
The Speakers:

SEN. RICHARD GORDON
Special Guest
Topic: "Finding Your Gift to the Philippines"

EMILY ABRERA
Topic: "The Filipino Youth Now: Pressures and Challenges, Choices They have to Make"

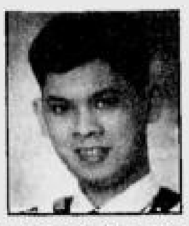


PROF. ONOFRE PAGSANGHAN
Topic: "Values: Anchors for Leadership"



DANIEL MACABITAS
Topic: "Pusong Pinoy"

DYLAN WILK
Topic: "Pusong Pinoy"



JUAN BENEDICTO MAGDARAOG
Topic: "The Filipino Can!"

PATRICIA EVANGELISTA
Topic: "The Filipino Can!"

The 2nd L.E.A.P. Leaders Congress is sponsored by:

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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AIR21
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

Japanese firm puts up LCD module plant

By Abigail L. Ho

SANYO Epson Imaging Devices Philippines Inc. will invest P900 million in a liquid crystal display (LCD) module production plant in Laguna.

The SEPH plant, to be put up under a lease agreement with semiconductor manufacturer Integrated Microelectronics Inc., will be located at IMI's property at the Special Export Processing Zone in Laguna. It will start operations in April this year.

It will have an initial annual capacity of 17 million pieces of LCD modules, representing about 10 percent of the annual global production of Sanyo Epson Imaging Devices Corp. SEPH's parent firm, said SEPH director Takushi Yano in a briefing yesterday.

Other LCD production plants are located in Japan and China.

The Philippine subsidiary was formed following the merger of the LCD production businesses of Seiko Epson Corp. and Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. in October 2004.

Epson holds a 55-percent stake in the joint venture, while Sanyo holds the remaining 45 percent.

Yano said SEPH will have 50 supervisors and executives to oversee operations and around 1,000 employees to do the actual production.

More workers will be hired as volume increases, he said.

SEPH estimates that the company will produce around 22 million pieces of LCD modules by 2007, which should still represent 10 percent of the company's projected global annual production of 220 million pieces of LCD modules.

SEPH president Misao Shimizu said the Philippines was chosen as one of the locations for Sanyo Epson's LCD manufacturing plants because of the high level of education and skill of its workforce, the strategic location of the country in the world market and the strong government support for investors.

Yano said the establishment of Sanyo Epson's Philippine arm will boost the company's chances of becoming the fourth biggest producer of LCDs.

Before the merger, Seiko Epson occupied the No. 6 spot, while Sanyo claimed the No. 10 position in the world ranking of small medium-sized LCD manufacturers.

JG considering bond float to settle $187M in debts

By Clarissa S. Batino

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc. of the Gokongwei family is considering the sale of fresh bonds this year to refinance a $187-million maturing debt in 2006, its top official said.

Lance Gokongwei, president of JG Summit, said the company might take advantage of the dollar and interest rate environment to raise money for debts falling due next year.

"If the interest rate environment will remain as it is now, we may go back to the market this year to issue some bonds," said Gokongwei. The company, he said, was looking at a bond float worth less than the $300 million sold in 2003.

JG Summit will have to evaluate whether it would be better to borrow now than just wait until the debts fall due.

"The last time we sold bonds was in 2003 and that was $300 million. We wont sell that big an amount this time," the JG Summit official added.

JG Summit's food unit, Universal Robina Corp., is also scheduled to settle some $55 million in debts next year.

JG Summit is a Gokongwei holding firm with interests in airline, banking, food manufacturing, hotels, petrochemicals, power generation, publishing, real estate and property development, telecommunications and textiles.

"The proceeds of the bond issue will be used to settle JG's debt of about $187 million most likely by the middle of next year," added Gokongwei.

JG Summit is focusing on three big-ticket projects this year. These are the $200-million expansion of Sun Cellular's network, the $400-million refleeting of Cebu Air Pacific, and a $400-million naphtha cracker plant in Batangas.

Metrobank, Landbank post double-digit profit growth

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. and Land Bank of the Philippines posted double-digit growths in net profits last year on higher interest earnings and tighter cost controls.

Metrobank, the country's biggest bank in terms of resources, yesterday reported that its unaudited net income last year rose by 20.2 percent to P3.6 billion from P3 billion in 2003.

Land Bank, in a separate report, said it registered P2.25 billion in net earnings in 2004, 12 percent higher than the previous year's P2 billion, marking a new profitability record.

"The improvement in net income was largely due to the strengthening of the bank's core business," said Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr.

Abacan said Metrobank had increased its focus on managing the cost of funds as interest expenses grew by only 2.9 percent while net interest income increased by 30.4 percent to P11.9 billion from only P9.1 billion last year.

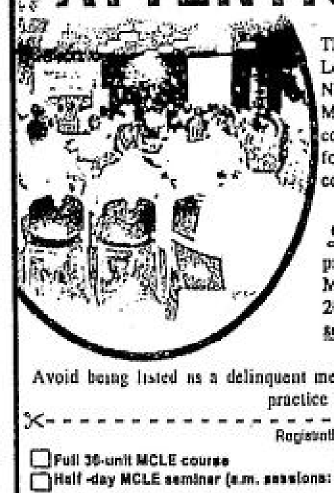
In the same report, Metrobank said its total resources stood at P460.8 billion, maintaining its leadership in the industry while its capital remained solid at P52.8 billion.

Landbank president and CEO Gary Teves attributed the increase in Landbank's 2004 net income to a 15-percent growth in gross revenue, from P18.5 billion in 2003 to P21.4 billion last year, coupled with prudent management of expenses and implementation of austerity measures.

"We've set another record for the bank by exceeding our net income targets for four years in a row," Teves said.

"We posted a net income of P1.5 billion in 2001, which increased to P1.65 billion in 2002, after which we achieved a historic high of P2 billion in 2003," he said.

Doris C. Dumlao



ATTENTION LAWYERS!

The first compliance period of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) ended last December 31, 2004. Notices of non-compliance will soon be sent out by the MCLE Committee. Pursuant to Bar Matter 850, non-compliance with the MCLE requirement shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member of the IBP and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law.

LegisForum, Inc., an accredited MCLE provider, shall conduct its third 36-unit MCLE course in MAKATI CITY on February 19 & 26 and March 5 & 12, 2005. Credits earned can be credited to both the first & second compliance periods.

Avoid being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and consequently, not permitted to practice law! REGISTER NOW!

Registration form (Please Check✓)

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Date	Credit Units/Subject Per Bar Matter 850	Lecturer
☐ Feb. 19 a.m.	2/Updates in Civil and Criminal Procedure 2/Oral Advocacy	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
☐ Feb. 19 p.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed: Rules on Electronic Evidence 3/Updates in Constitutional & Election Law	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy Justice Regalado E. Maambong
☐ Feb. 26 a.m.	2/Trial and Pre- Trial Skills 2/MCLE Prescribed: Environmental Law	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili
☐ Feb. 26 p.m.	2/International Law 3/Legal Ethics	Prof. Harry H. L. Roque, Jr. Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ Mar. 05 a.m.	2/Updates in Criminal Law and Jurisprudence 2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, Jr.
☐ Mar. 05 p.m.	3/Alternative Dispute Resolution 2/Updates in Labor Laws and Jurisprudence	Dean Custodio O. Parlade USEC Josephus B. Jimenez
☐ Mar. 12 a.m.	2/Alternative Dispute Resolution 2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ Mar. 12 p.m.	3/Legal Ethics 2/MCLE Prescribed: Forensic, Ballistics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprinting	Justice Jose L. Sabio Justice Regalado E. Maambong

Name of Participant: ______ Roll No.: ______ IBP Chapter: ______
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Today falls under a new Standard

THE MERGER of two profit-resistant dailies, Standard and Today, originally set for Feb. 1, may have to wait until the week after next, at the earliest.

According to the grapevine, the managements of the two English-language broadsheets are still grappling with the details of the marriage, including the make-up of the merged paper and, the more ticklish aspect, on who gets to head which section of the combined dailies.

The merger is actually a takeover, with Standard, backed by the deep pockets of ICTSI's Enrique Razon Jr., as the surviving broadsheet, this was confirmed by Standard columnist Emil Jurado whom we bumped into two weeks ago.

Today has been looking for a stronger financier after telecom heir Antonio Cojuangco Jr., overwhelmed by the capital-intensive Channel 5 venture, backtracked from pumping in more cash into the financially challenged daily.

Until yesterday, the staffs of both Standard and Today had yet to be officially told of the putative merger, although Today, as a prelude to the takeover, started being printed in the Standard presses since mid-month last month.

According to the grapevine, Standard editor in chief Jullie Yap Daza's wish to be relieved of day-to-day responsibilities may now be realized with the entry of Today's Lourdes Molina-Fernandez as executive editor.

And Molina's boss, Today founder Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., is seen as becoming the next Standard publisher as well as occasional columnist.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Money-go-round

- TRADE Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. will move over to head the strategic Intellectual Property Office, with the entry of the new trade secretary, Juan Santos.
- STOCK market wizard Wilson Sy and Manila Mining chair Felipe Yap have a new falling-out, this time over the alleged timing of Manila Mining trades.
- After one and a half years of waiting, the Delgados of Islacom have finally received approval from Saipan's Commonwealth Telecommunication Commission to operate the island's telephone company, Verizon, which the Filipinos acquired for $60 million.

Business class for less

NORTHWEST Airlines has resumed its popular cash and miles promo, in time for the off-peak season travel slack.

From now until March 12, one can fly business class to the West Coast out of Manila for as little as $777 and 40,000 frequent flier miles. For East Coast cities, the same passage would cost $999 and 40,000 miles.

Those who have fewer miles can opt to make up with higher cash component.

Tokyo- and Nagoya-bound passengers need only $199 and 20,000 miles for the same business class passage.

The return leg must be taken within 90 days after departure.

Heard through the grapevine

BARRING last-minute changes, Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. appears set to be appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as the next Bangko Sentral governor, when the term of Rafael Buenaventura expires mid-year.

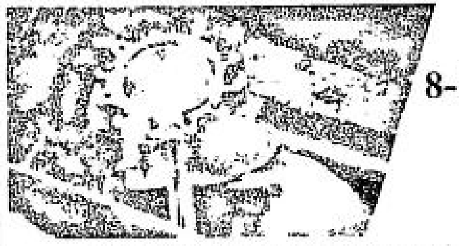
Tetangco refused to be baited and declined to answer a congratulatory text, while Buenaventura, whose first choice is none other but Tetangco himself, called the report "speculation until [the President] picks the person and announces it."

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PRULINK | PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week February 08, 2005	Last Week February 01, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.21902	1.20921
Managed Fund - Peso	1.34081	1.32431
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1061	1.0892

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission



Manila Water

8-hour water interruption in Makati due to upgrade of facility

The replacement of a 300 horsepower pump at the Makati Pumping Station will cause a temporary water service interruption in some portions of Makati from 10:00 p.m., Friday, February 11, 2005, up to 6:00 a.m. Saturday, February 12. Affected areas are the following: Central Business District, San Lorenzo Village, Urdaneta Village, Bel-Air Village 1-4, Salcedo Village, Legaspi Village, San Miguel Village, Barangay Poblacion, Guadalupe Nuevo, Pitogo, South Cembo, Pinagkaisahan and Cembo.

We regret any inconvenience the interruption will bring to our customers. The replacement of the pump is necessary to ensure the upgrade of major facilities and continuous distribution of water.

Residents are advised to store enough water prior to the schedule of the water interruptions.

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

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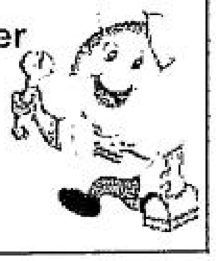
(PDI – February 11, 2005)



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JAGUAR
Born to perform

Firm capital market key to RP's fiscal woes, says finance chief

By Michelle V. Remo

INCOMING Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima is backing efforts to develop the domestic capital market, believing that the government can improve its fiscal position if more of its borrowing requirements will be sourced locally.

During a roundtable discussion with INQUIRER business reporters and editors Wednesday night, Purisima noted that about 80 percent of the national government's domestic debts had short-term maturities, giving officials less flexibility in planning their finances.

He said that with an institutionalized capital market, the government's long-term debt papers would have a better chance of getting traded, therefore extending to a longer period the average maturity of its debts.

The local banking industry and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas are working on developing the country's capital market by establishing the so-called Fixed Income Exchange (FIE). The FIE, which will operate much like the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), will be an open market for various private and government debt instruments.

The BSP said that the Philippines is lagging behind its neighbors in the area of capital market development because it still has no formal venue for the trading of debt instruments.

Capital market is composed of the equities market (the PSE), the financial market (covering banks and non-bank financial intermediaries), and the bond market, which have yet to be developed with the establishment of the FIE.

The BSP said setting up a market for local debt instruments, which will complement the financial markets, was vital for economic growth because it will encourage investments. The central bank also said an FIE would provide investment alternatives for investors, who were only almost limited to financial and equities instruments.

Purisima said that currently, 98 percent of the financing requirement of companies from the private sector is sourced from banks, and only 2 percent is sourced from the capital market. This compares poorly with neighboring countries like Malaysia, where 30 percent of the financing requirement of private companies are sourced from their domestic capital market.

He said that with the FIE, the national government will have a venue to issue peso-denominated bonds for its borrowing requirements, reducing its dependence on foreign borrowings which can be more costly due to foreign exchange risks.

Sun's 24/7 is here to stay, execs claim

SUN CELLULAR will continue offering its unlimited 24/7 service indefinitely, the telco said in a statement.

"24/7 is here to stay," said William Pamintuan, senior vice president of Digitel, Sun Cellular's mother company. "It is a product, a subscription plan, and not a mere promotion which has a limited offering period."

Text messages saying that Sun would soon drop its 24/7 service began circulating days after Sun opposed the petition of Globe and Smart which sought to stop the popular service.

The two giant telcos claim that Sun has been engaging in predatory pricing by offering rates that are too low.

Yesterday, Pilipino Telephone Corp., a unit of Smart Communications Inc., claimed that its subscriber take-up was not affected by Sun's 24/7 plan.

"Sun Cellular's pricing scheme has not really affected our subscriber take-up," said Rogelio Quevedo, Piltel's legal head. "There has been no slowdown."

The 24/7 plan of the Gokongwei-owned Sun Cellular had increased its wireless subscribers to 1.5 million from only 700,000 since the product was launched in October 2004.

According to Quevedo, Piltel and Smart will report robust subscriber bases when the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. group announces its 2004 results on March 1.

He said a financial news blackout imposed on listed companies was preventing him from reporting Piltel and Smart's subscriber base, although PLDT's top officials had claimed that mobile customers likely surpassed the 19-million mark last year.

But Quevedo said that Piltel's strong recovery is being undermined by the National Telecommunications Commission's lax enforcement of service quality and standards.

Quevedo said that the NTC had not been applying to Sun Cellular the same rigid standards it had implemented to leading operators. He added that Piltel and Smart had invested heavily into their network to give their subscribers seamless service.

Jorge. Sarmiento, NTC deputy commissioner, said the commission would look into Piltel's claims.

"The NTC must clarify its rules first," said Quevedo. "If the NTC would change its performance standards, then we would probably compete in the same level."

Quevedo said that for Sun Cellular to deliver quality service to its consumers, it must expand its network by 10 times. Sun Cellular said it would spend $200 million this year to increase its cellular sites to 2,000 from about 1,300.

Digitel's current wireless network could accommodate 2 million subscribers and the expansion would bring up the capacity to about 6 million.

Piltel and Smart, according to Quevedo, could accommodate 28 million subscribers assuming regular calling patterns.

"This is not a ploy of Piltel to stop Sun Cellular from getting into the market," Quevedo said. "We just want the NTC to follow the rules. This is about a level playing field ... the NTC (must) not allow a company to live under a different set of rules."

Digitel's Pamintuan had accused Smart and Globe of using their smaller units to prevent Sun Cellular from competing.

"If they claim that our service is poor, then they should be happy," said Pamintuan. "There should be no cause of alarm for them. If they are really confident of their network and that ours is not at par with them then they should be happy."

Clarissa S. Batino

HSBC
The world's

ECO MUSEUM

HSBC CEO Warner Manning (right) and ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez discuss plans to put up a multimedia environmental museum and interactive learning center in Quezon City. HSBC has linked up with the ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan to build the La Mesa Eco Laboratory and Museum at the La Mesa Eco Park in Quezon City. The facility, which will cater to school children and families, is expected to be completed within the year.

Creating a strong agricultural voice

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

WE ARE in the age of globalization, and it can either be promising or perilous.

The promise is that we can now export goods to countries that have lowered their tariff barriers. This means more jobs and less poverty. The peril is that, with our lowered tariffs, we may have to import goods that will replace our local production. This means losing jobs and further worsening our poverty situation.

For Philippine agriculture, globalization has come to be more perilous than promising. In 1992-1993, for every $84 we imported, we exported $100. Today, the situation has reversed. The latest statistics show that for every $100 that we export, we import $147.

A 3-pronged approach

We must face up to globalization. We must turn peril into promise.

The first step is to promote technology. With antiquated systems, we cannot export our products to other countries. This is because we will suffer from the twin deficiencies of lower quality and higher costs, compared to our competing neighbors.

Worse, our own consumers will stop buying our products and substitute them with higher quality and lower cost imports. More jobs will be lost and our poverty will worsen.

Unfortunately, our agricultural technology has not been adequately supported. One indicator is that, for the last seven years, Congress has been allocating to the Department of Agriculture less than half of the annual P32.5 billion as mandated by the Agricultural and Fishery Modernization Act.

Technology adoption does not happen overnight. Like other successful countries, which often unfairly subsidize their goods, we must give ourselves time to nurture our agriculture before we subject it to global competition.

Thus, we need to have a gradually decreasing tariff schedule instead of sudden trade liberalization. We have not been doing this. Several of our previously protected vegetables got a 7-percent tariff rate, well below the World Trade Organization's 40-percent bound rate.

But even with the twin moves of adopting the appropriate technologies and a gradually decreasing agricultural tariff schedule, rampant smuggling will render these useless. There was a time when 40 out of 100 imported agricultural containers arriving in Metro Manila were smuggled.

To execute this three-pronged approach of technology adoption, gradual liberalization, and anti-smuggling measures, a strong agricultural voice is needed. This is what agriculturally successful countries have in common. This is something we do not have prior to 2003.

We lacked commodity specific national associations. We did not even have a national rice farmers organization. More importantly, we lacked a national agricultural voice that would promote common agricultural concerns across several commodities.

An agricultural voice

Two years ago, this all changed. In January of 2003, a united agricultural front emerged with the launching of the Alyansa Agrikultura.

The Alyansa is the biggest farmer-fisherfolk coalition today, composed of 39 national and local federations and organizations.

There is now a Rice Farmers Council of the Philippines (RFCP), which united all rice farmers. They succeeded in changing the previous government's position of lifting quantitative restrictions on rice in 2005. Their efforts benefited more than 3 million rice farmers nationwide.

The RFCP also successfully promoted nationwide a rice technology called the System of Rice Intensification, which improves soil fertility, productivity and farmer income.

There is the National Federation of Hog Farmers in the Philippines. Although it has 31 associations throughout the country, the hog farmers' federation is counted as only one of Alyansa's 39 members.

The federation also succeeded in reversing the government plan to temporarily decrease hog tariffs at a time when there was a market glut and low prices. Without this effort, the 300,000 hog farmers would have suffered.

Aside from these two commodity-specific examples, the Alyansa succeeded in changing government policies that simultaneously affected several commodities. An example is the retraction of government policies allowing the redemption and auctioning of smuggled agricultural goods, which would often wind up in the hands of the smugglers themselves.

Instead, the government adopted the Alyansa proposal of giving these smuggled goods to the poor or destroying them. This, together with the Alyansa's active involvement in the apprehension and inspection of smuggled products, has led to the decrease in the smuggling rate from 40 percent to less than one percent.

On a more systemic basis, the Alyansa has also convinced the government to adopt a more gradual agricultural tariff reduction scheme.

Support

Agriwatch recognizes the creation of a strong united agricultural front, represented by the Alyansa Agrikultura, as a historic milestone in Philippine agricultural development. It therefore fully supports the strengthening of the Alyansa's policy advocacy and action programs, especially in the technology and business areas.

An Agriwatch Valentine's Day Dance Concert with two-time Aliw awardee Spirit of '67 will be held for the benefit of small farmers and fisherfolk, and to support key Alyansa activities.

A P500 contribution entitles you to a drink and free flowing peanuts. The Feb. 14 affair will be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard, starting at 8 p.m. For information, or if you care to make monetary and non-monetary contributions, please call 832-2112. It is open even on weekends.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 10, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	86,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	554,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57.5	56.5	56.5	57,500
China Banking Corp.	580	580	575	575	3,720
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	20,000
International Exch. Bank	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	270,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	35	33.5	35	10,408,700
Philippine National Bank	27.5	28	27.5	28	52,500
Phil. Savings Bank	31.	31	31	31	6,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	33	33	33	33	85,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	21,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2400	2400	2400	2400	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	256,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	120	125	120	124	26,460
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1755	1755	1755	1755	10
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	17.25	16.75	17.25	96,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.62	6,376,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	940	940	930	930	7,780
Ipeople Inc.	4.2	4.65	4.2	4.65	291,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.038	7,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.7	5,531,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1410	1420	1410	1415	910
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	6,820,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	6,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17	17.25	17	17.25	68,300
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26.5	26	26.5	864,400
Petron Corp.	3.85	3.9	3.85	3.85	2,300,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	45,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.58	1.64	1.56	1.6	4,576,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.82	530,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	221,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	470,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.5	4.75	4.45	4.5	11,433,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	127,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	34	35.5	34	34.5	117,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	45,700
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	380,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	57.5	29,500
San Miguel Corp. B	78	78.5	78	78.5	65,100
Universal Robina Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	14,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	2,480,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	72,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.0085	0.0075	0.0085	28,000,000
Ayala Corp.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.2	5,851,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.71	0.75	0.7	0.73	6,660,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.9	342,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.031	0.028	0.03	16,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	278,000
APC Group Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.44	9,280,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	101,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.165	0.15	0.16	1,110,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.08	1	1.02	22,500,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.2	0.2	770,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	3,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	5,060,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.73	0.8	0.66	0.7	45,160,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.65	5.1	4.65	5	13,448,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.0625	0.0525	0.055	121,300,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.36	1.58	1.36	1.56	6,787,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.3	9.8	9.3	9.5	1,512,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	2,179,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.0825	0.085	17,400,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.22	1.44	1.22	1.42	7,141,000
Ionics Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.74	1.74	745,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	2,106,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.22	2.24	2.22	2.24	387,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.64	1.94	1.64	1.9	33,079,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.49	0.52	57,860,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	290,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.19	4,190,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.51	600,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.17	17,780,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	468,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	157,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.27	0.35	0.27	0.35	20,140,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.73	0.81	0.73	0.81	45,790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	568,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.64	0.67	0.63	0.65	2,690,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.7	4.3	3.7	4.3	153,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.38	5,440,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.5	17.5	16.5	17.25	162,500
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	200,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	10,000
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	1,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.8	4,160,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.85	0.81	0.85	560,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.4	60,690,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.195	0.18	0.18	12,850,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.58	0.52	0.55	100,090,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	2.1	1.84	2.04	29,770,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	3,790,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	580,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.175	0.16	0.175	1,000,000
Primex Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	15,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.29	0.3	0.27	0.29	7,090,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	420,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.5	494,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.95	0.9	0.9	170,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	39,200,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.4	496,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	38,000
Benguet Corp. B	13	13	13	13	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	5,320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.45	16,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	149,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	291,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	18,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	2,833,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.42	8,041,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	46	47.5	45	45.5	5,971,700
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	9,800,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	27,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	250,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	210,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	145,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	25,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	280,000

CURRENCIES

February 10, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780701	1.000000	55.1760
Japan	Yen	0.007399	0.009477	0.5229
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451479	1.859200	102.5832
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100099	0.128217	7.0745
Switzerland	Franc	0.641866	0.822166	45.3638
Canada	Dollar	0.624811	0.800320	44.1585
Singapore	Dollar	0.474014	0.607165	33.5009
Australia	Dollar	0.599478	0.767872	42.3681
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.070880	2.652590	146.3593
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208193	0.266674	14.7140
Brunei	Dollar	0.472579	0.605327	33.3995
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.020221	0.025901	1.4291
UAE	Dirham	0.212592	0.272309	15.0249
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.280900	70.6749
Argentina	Peso	0.268513	0.343938	18.9771
Brazil	Real	0.299635	0.383803	21.1767
Denmark	Kroner	0.134374	0.172120	9.4969
India	Rupee	0.017898	0.022925	1.2649
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205475	0.263193	14.5219
Mexico	New Peso	0.069968	0.089622	4.9450
New Zealand	Dollar	0.547976	0.701902	38.7281
Norway	Kroner	0.119325	0.152844	8.4333
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013156	0.016852	0.9298
South Africa	Rand	0.125263	0.160449	8.8529
Korea	Won	0.000753	0.000965	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.110247	0.141215	7.7917
Syria	Pound	0.015039	0.019264	1.0629
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024558	0.031456	1.7356
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000408	0.000522	0.0288

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HOUSE & LOT

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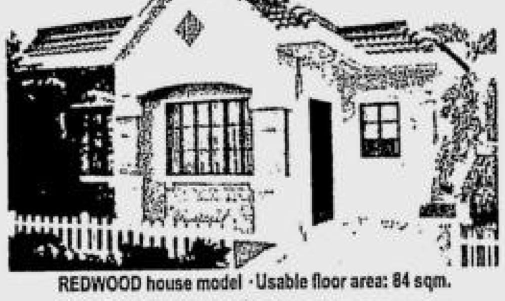

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PASIG

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VV6 Thse 3BR 7.5M 6413698

QUEZON CITY

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MANDALUYONG

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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00CRV4x4 P585 a/t 09184238154

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02 CivicVTI 560T m/t 4361294

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CARS FOR RENT

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

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1.5% Car Loan 5344441

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1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

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•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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2% w/oTaking Car 8950454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

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CAR LOAN

2% w/out taking car 5315577

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REGISTERED NURSES CALL
FOR INTERVIEW 09209245279

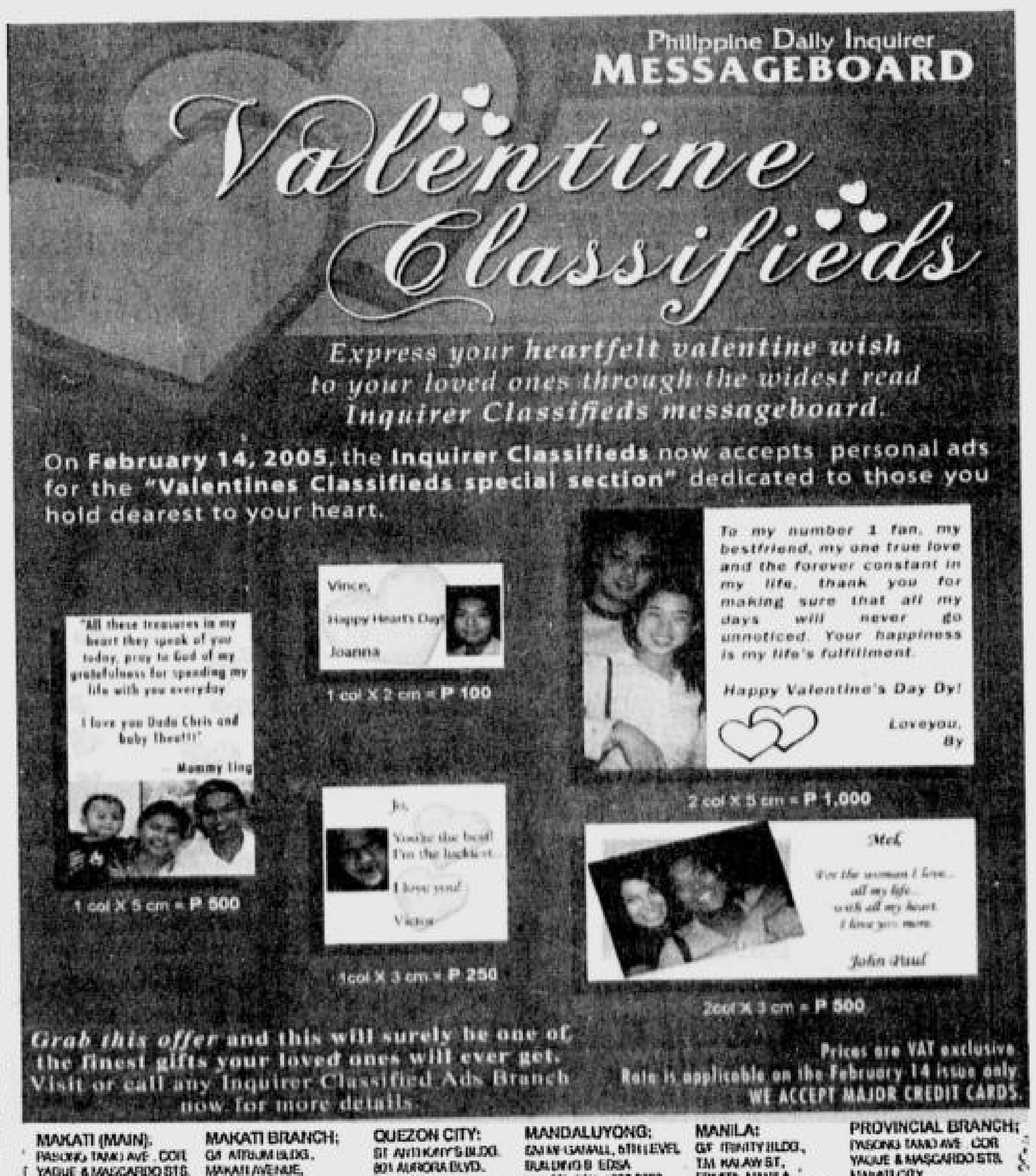
PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of PLATE # PVY-282 owned by EVELYN SENORAN.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2005)

PERSONAL

Prayer to the Blessed Mother
(Never known to fail)
Oh most Beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother. Oh holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart. Succour me in this necessity, there are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother. O Mary conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen. This prayer must be said th three days and after 3 days your request will be granted and the prayer must be published
ARGEN



Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

Valentine Classifieds

Express your heartfelt valentine wish to your loved ones through the widest read Inquirer Classifieds messageboard.

On **February 14, 2005**, the **Inquirer Classifieds** now accepts personal ads for the **"Valentines Classifieds special section"** dedicated to those you hold dearest to your heart.

"All these treasures in my heart they speak of you today, pray to God of my gratefulness for spending my life with you everyday

I love you Dada Chris and baby Theo!!!"

— Mommy Ling

1 col X 5 cm = P 500

Vince,
Happy Heart's Day!
Joanna

1 col X 2 cm = P 100

Jo,
You're the best!
I'm the luckiest...
I love you!
Victor

1col X 3 cm = P 250

To my number 1 fan, my bestfriend, my one true love and the forever constant in my life, thank you for making sure that all my days will never go unnoticed. Your happiness is my life's fulfillment.

Happy Valentine's Day Dy!

Loveyou,
By

2 col X 5 cm = P 1,000

Mel,
For the woman I love...
all my life...
with all my heart
I love you more.
John Paul

2col X 3 cm = P 500

Grab this offer and this will surely be one of the finest gifts your loved ones will ever get. Visit or call any Inquirer Classified Ads Branch now for more details.

Prices are VAT exclusive.
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℻ 892-5578
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℻ 912-9011
email [illegible]

MANDALUYONG:
SM MEGAMALL, 5TH LEVEL BUILDING B EDSA
☎ 635-0219 / 637-2008
℻ 635-0220
email [illegible]

MANILA:
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℻ 528 0213
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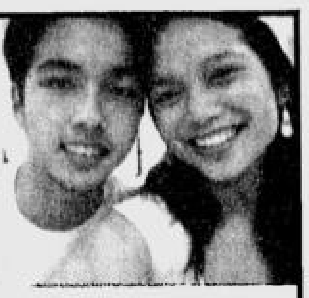
☎ 809-4427 (Direct)
℻ 8978425
email [illegible]



Happy Birthday my Alejandro.

Thank you for the life you give me. I love you always.

– Your Jap

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a blank Official Receipt with

O.R. No. 272167

Duly registered under the name of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Manila was lost on October 22, 2004, and is now deemed void. Customers, vendors, business partners and the public are hereby warned not to accept the above-mentioned Official Receipt from any party or entity.

(PDI - Feb. 11, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following blank Official Receipts duly registered under the name of Oakwood Premiere Ayala were lost:

O.R. No.	Date of Loss
19470	May 19, 2004
19541 & 19545	July 14, 2004

Customers, Vendors, business partners and the public are hereby warned not to accept the above-mentioned Official Receipts from any party or entity.

(PDI – Feb. 11, 2005)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-021	1 lot Supply of technical supervision, labor, materials, tools and equipment for the installation, testing, recommissioning and energization of Power Transformer 3.75MVA, pad mounted/sub-station type and other electrical equipment and components at the Sub-Station Area, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.	P 10,000,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-028	Two (2) Years Lease Rental of thirty three (33) units Brand New Copier Machine for LBP-HO Units with estimated minimum volume of 5,000 copies/unit/month.	P 3,265,920.00	LBP Funds
2005-038	3,960 pads Application for Manager's Checks, Demand Drafts, Electronic Money Transfers, Traveller's Checks and Gift Checks.	P 2,970,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on March 9, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for each ITB.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on February 24, 2005 at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - Feb. 11 & 18, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IX - Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-1828, (062) 991-1789
Fax No. (062) 991-1339

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Cargo Handling Operators, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the discharging of 2005 NFA imported rice on board foreign/local vessels at the following area/port to wit:

(Province/Port)	Estimated Volume (in bags of 50 kg)	Approved Rate per Bag 50 kg (P)	Approved Budget (P)
1. Pagadian City Port	200,000	2.6565	531,300.00
2. Malangas Wharf	20,000	3.00	60,000.00
3. Pulawan Port, Dapitan City	120,000	3.325	399,000.00
4. Port Sta. Maria, Siocon, ZDN	30,000		
5. Lamao Port, Liloy, ZDN	50,000		
6. Zambo City Port (imported rice)	1,500,000	7.24	9,412,000.00
7. Zambo. City Port (domestic shipment)	710,000	3.982	2,827,220.00

The cargo handling activity (subject to bidding) calls for the supply of labor, cargo handling logistics including supervision in the complete execution of the discharging operations.

Schedule of bidding activities:

Particulars	Date/Time
· Last day of application for registration/renewal to interested bidders who are not NFA accredited labor contractors and/or whose registration had already expired	February 23, 2005 8AM - 4PM
· Issuance of application forms for eligibility and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & Issuance of bid forms	February 14-18 & 21-25, 2005
· Pre-Bid Conference	March 2, 2005 / 2:00 PM
· Submission and opening of bids	March 15, 2005 / 2:00 PM

All cargo handling operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent participate and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 to NFA-BAC, Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated above.

The venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Bidding Proper will be at NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security, bidding procedures and evaluation shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA**
OIC-Office of ARD, and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI - Feb. 11 & 18, 2005)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IX – Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-1828, (062) 9911789, Fax No. (062) 9911339

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Trucking/Hauling of 2005 NFA imported/local rice and/or local palay at the following area to wit:

(Province/Port)	Estimated Volume (in bags of 50 kg) for Transfer within the Province	Approved Rate per Bag 50 kg (P) per Trip	Approved Budget (P)
1. City Port to Tiguma Whse., Pagadian City	145,000	6.00	870,000.00
2. Pagadian City Wharf to Molave Warehouse	45,000	20.00	900,000.00
3. Pagadian Whse. to San Miguel PSC Whse	10,000	15.00	150,000.00
4. Palid Wharf to Taway GID Whse. Ipil	90,000	5.25	472,500.00
5. Guilawa Warehouse to Taway Whse	10,000	20.00	200,000.00
6. NFA Zambo City Whse. to Taway Whse	5,000	26.00	130,000.00
7. Malangas Wharf to Guilawa Warehouse	20,000	5.50	110,000.00
8. Liloy Lamao Port to Ipil Taway Warehouse	50,000	14.25	712,500.00
9. Pulawan Port to Gulayon Warehouse	115,000	7.00	805,000.00
10. Port Sta. Maria to Lituban Whse., Siocon	30,000	8.00	240,000.00
11. Lamao Port to Banigan Warehouse, Liloy	50,000	4.75	237,500.00
12. Gulayon Warehouse to Banigan Whse.	10,000	19.50	195,000.00
13. Gulayon Warehouse to S. Osmeña Whse.	5,000	15.00	75,000.00
14. Banigan Warehouse to Taway Warehouse	10,000	14.25	142,500.00
15. Port to Fortuna Whse., Zamboanga City/ vice versa	1,300,000	2.75	3,575,000.00

The hauling activity (subject to bidding) calls for the supply of cargo/hauling trucks:

Schedule of bidding activities:

Particulars	Date/Time
• Last day of application for registration/renewal to interested bidders who are not NFA accredited labor contractors and/or whose registration had already expired	February 23, 2005 / 8 AM - 4 PM
• Issuance of application forms for eligibility and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & issuance of bid forms	February 14-18 & 21-25, 2005
• Pre-Bid Conference	March 1, 2005 / 9:00 AM
• Submission and opening of bids	March 14, 2005 / 9:00 AM

All hauling/trucking operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent to participate and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 to NFA-BAC, Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated above.

The venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Bidding Proper will be at NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security, bidding procedures and evaluation shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT

(Sgd.) ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA
OIC Office of ARD, and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI – February 11 & 18, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IX – Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-1828, (062) 9911789, Fax No. (062) 9911339

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Labor Contractors, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the in-warehouse handling of NFA 2005 imported/local rice and/or local palay at the following area to wit:

(Province/Port)	Estimated Volume (in bags of (50 kg)	Approved Rate per Bag 50 kg (P)	Approved Budget (P)
1. Tiguma GID Warehouse, Pagadian City	348,500	1.75	609,875.00
2. Culo GID Warehouse, Molave, ZDS	106,500	1.75	186,375.00
3. Taway GID Warehouse, Ipil, Sibugay	208,700	1.75	365,225.00
4. Guilawa Warehouse, Malangas, Sibugay	52,300	1.75	91,525.00
5. Fortune Warehouse, Zamboanga City	2,215,000.00	1.70	3,765,500.00
6. Gulayon Warehouse, Dipolog City	242,000	1.75	423,500.00
7. Lituban Warehouse, Siocon, ZDN	63,000	1.75	10,250.00
8. FSC Warehouse, S. Osmeña, ZDN	10,000	1.75	17,500.00
9. Banigan FSC Warehouse, Liloy, ZDN	100,000	1.75	175,000.00

* In warehouse handling for intra-inter regional transfers/distribution.

The in-warehouse handling activity (subject to bidding) calls for the supply of labor services only.

Schedule of bidding activities:

Particulars	Date/Time
• Last day of application for registration/renewal to interested bidders who are not NFA accredited labor contractors and/or whose registration had already expired	February 23, 2005 / 8 AM - 4 PM
• Issuance of application forms for eligibility and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & issuance of bid forms	February 14-18 & 21-25, 2005
• Pre-Bid Conference	March 1, 2005 /2:00 PM
• Submission and opening of bids	March 14, 2005 / 2:00 PM

All labor contractors interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent to participate and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 3,500.00 to NFA-BAC, Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated above.

The venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Bidding Proper will be at the NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security, bidding procedures and evaluation shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT

(Sgd.) ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA
OIC Office of ARD, and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI – February 11 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE RE-SUBMISSION
OF THE UNIFORM FILING REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE UNBUNDLING OF RATES

ERC CASE NO. 2004-456

PUBLIC UTILITY DEPARTMENT -
CITY OF OLONGAPO (PUD-OLONGAPO)
Applicant.
x-----------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given of the re-submission by applicant Public Utility Department, City of Olongapo (PUD-OLONGAPO) on December 9, 2004 of its Uniform Filing Requirements (UFR) for the unbundling of rates, docketed as ERC Case No. 2004-456. PUD-OLONGAPO proposed an Over-all Average Tariff Adjustment (OATA) of P0.9882/kWh

The Commission has set the application for hearing on February 22, 2005 at two o'clock (2:00 PM) in the afternoon at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and the Honorables **OLIVER B. BUTALID, JESUS N. ALCORDO**, and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 10th day of January, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI-Feb. 4 & 11, 2005)

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Cindy Corro
0917-3568202
or **Jet Cornejo**
0918-9351615

NFA assures public of stable rice prices and supply

NATIONAL Food Authority (NFA) administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. assured the public that prices and supply of government rice remain stable despite the increase in commercial rice price as a result of recent increases in oil prices. Tan said that the selling price of NFA regular-milled rice (RMR) is still pegged at P16 per kg. The agency also sells well-milled rice (WMR) at P18 a kilogram and both rice varieties are available in the agency's accredited rice outlets and rolling stores nationwide. Tan disclosed that the NFA has in its warehouses nationwide some 2.6 million bags or more than 131 thousand metric tons of rice and more than 110 thousand metric tons of palay equivalent to 2.2 million bags of rice. Tan encourages consumers to immediately report to the NFA any irregularities in rice transactions committed by unscrupulous rice businessmen, particularly rice diversion and over-pricing, through NFA text mobile number 0917-6210927.

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PUBLIC WORKSHOP DATES

February 10 – 11
February 24 – 25
March 10 – 11
March 17 - 18

Client Testimonials

"I would strongly encourage anyone in management to pursue an opportunity to attend this leadership course. The greatest encouragement, however, would be to the senior leadership of an organization to come and understand these principles and be able to role model them in the organization. so that when people come back they can see a picture of what it looks like in their own four walls."
-- Tami Helm, President, Borders Books

What I really found unique about this workshop is that the interaction has been outstanding... The principles are pragmatic and yet purposeful and inspiring... the benefit of this course is its values-based approach"
-- Richard Graham, Hewlett Packard

"Best subject matter and class I have ever attended. My friends, family and employees are wondering what happened to me."
-- Kevin Williams, Director for International Sales, Wal-Mart & Sam's Club

"This was a really good experience to come out and hear what other leaders are doing at other companies, and to have a chance to learn how they are resolving their leadership issues."
-- Darlene Quncy, IT Manager, Delta Airlines

"When I experienced this training, I saw leadership principles I've taught all my life come to life."
- JOHN C MAXWELL

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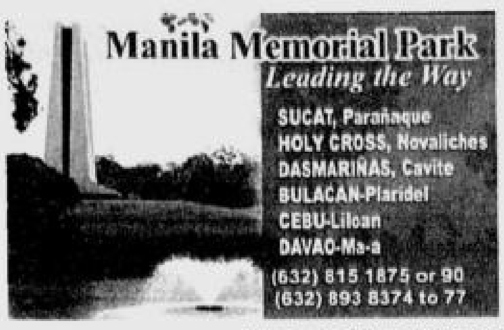
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CARMELITA BAUTISTA PACHECO

of Malabon City and Quezon City

November 8, 1931 – February 7, 2005

Widow of Dr. Edgardo S. Pacheco
of U.P. College of Engineering

Her bereaved children **Wilfredo & Ma. Fe, Benilda & Robert Nazareno**, and **Miriam & Mark Annett**; grandchildren **Alexandra, Alfredo, Antonio, Augusto, Rafael** and **Meaghan**; brothers and sisters; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, 219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon City.

There will be a mass at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 2005. Interment follows at 1:00 p.m. at Saldea Memorial Park, Obando, Bulacan.

How lovely is your dwelling place O Lord Almighty, My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord." **Psalm 84:1-2**

Our Dearly Beloved

Felipa P. Tenza

*Peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, **Hon. Eliseo M. Tenza**, and her son, **Felipe P. Tenza** on February 9, 2005 at the age of 91.*

She will be missed by her children, **Dalmacio, Eliseo Jr., Narciso, Gloria** and **Marita**; grandchildren **Ninette, Noreen, Neille, Ellis, Kathleen, Paul, Aznet, Jackie, Vinty**, and **Carmello**; great grandchildren **Matthew, Kianna** and **Pio**; her sons-in-law **Vin** and **Lito** and daughters-in-law **Cora** and **Marietta** and all her other friends and relatives.

Her body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 13, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino.

HON. EDUARDO H. ROSCA

Peacefully joined our Creator on the 8th day of February 2005 at the age of 57.

His bereaved wife **Gilda J. Rosca**; children: **Mark, Joy, Christopher & MJ**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 3-C, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 13, 2005 (Sunday) at the Rosca Mausoleum at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, after the celebration of the 7:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

CONCEPCION C. AMISTAD

Widow of Atty. Antonio P. Amistad, passed away on February 8, 2005 at the age of 75.

Her children **Ernesto, Edgardo, Emerita, Emmanuel** and **Esmeraldo**; daughters-in-law **Susan, Wilma** and **Lizette**; grandchildren, **Nicholas, Charissa, Chantal, Michael, Chloe, Chandra, Paulo, Bianca, Cholo, Lorenz, Samuel, Ana** and **Carlo**; great grandchild, **Fabrice**, request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the St. John's Chapel of Sto. Domingo Church.

Interment will be on Saturday morning, February 12, 2005 at the North Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED HERMOSA SAVINGS AND LOAN BANK, INC.

1. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Hermosa Savings & Loan Bank Inc. (HSLBI) on Friday, February 11, 2005.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the following payoff sites where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), from Monday to Friday.

HSLBI Office/Branch	*Payoff Site/Address*	*Duration of Initial Operations*
Hermosa (Head Office)	Hermosa (Head Office) -A. Nuguid Hermosa, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Dinalupihan Branch	Hermosa (Head Office)-A. Nuguid, Hermosa, Bataan	February 11, to March 3, 2005
Makati City Branch	Phil. Deposit Insurance Corp. Ayala Office, 6th Floor, SSS Bldg., Ayala Avenue cor V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Abucay Branch	Abucay Branch -Bayo, Abucay, Bataan	February 11 to 25, 2005
Bagac Branch	Bagac Branch-Bagac, Bataan	February 11 to 22, 2005
Balanga Branch	Balanga Branch-M. Banzon Ave. corner Yakal St., Balanga, Bataan	February 11 to 25, 2005
Pilar Branches	Balanga Branch-M. Banzon Ave. corner Yakal St., Balanga Bataan	February 11 to 25, 2005
Limay Branch	Limay Branch - Limay, Bataan	February 11 to 22, 2005
Lubao Branch	Lubao Branch -Lubao, Pampanga	February 11 to 22, 2005
Mariveles Branch	Mariveles Branch - Burgos corner San Nicolas Streets, Balanga Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Morong Branch	Morong Branch-A. Luna corner Sulangi Streets, Morong Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Orion Branch	Orion Branch-Orion, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Orani Branch	Orani Branch-Kaparangan St., Orani Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Samal Branch	Orani Branch-Kaparangan Street, Orani, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005

After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Hermosa Savings & Loan Bank, Inc. is **February 2, 2007**. After **February 2, 2007**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–February 11 & 12, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **February 24, 2005**, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Building-1, Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following items:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
	Schedule-I	
-1-	One (1) Lot: Used "PCB-Free" Transformer Oil and Oil Circuit Breakers, Twelve (12) sets. Located at TRANSCO-Mexico Substation, Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga. Limited only to DENR accredited Transporter and/ or Waste-Treater.	P 4,028,430.00 per lot
-2-	Two-Year Contract of Sale of Old Records and Used Papers at NPC Head Office. Bond required is P5,000.00	P 5.00 per kg.
-3-	Two-Year Contract of Sale for Used Continuous Forms at NPC Head Office. Bond required is P2,000.00	P 9.27 per kg.
	Schedule-II	
-1-	One (1) Lot: Unserviceable, Used and Junk Substation Equipment (OCB, GCB, CT, PT, DS); General Plant Equipment and Parts, Assorted Scrap Metals and Power Cables. Located at Bataan TPP, Brgy. Luz, Limay Town, Bataan Province.	P 1,219,590.00 per lot
-2-	One (1) Lot: Obsolete Stator Coils, various sizes and Expired / Obsolete Parts, Chemicals, Spares and Materials. Located at Malaya TPP (KEPHILCO), Pililia Town, Rizal Province.	P 216,000.00 per lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIERS' CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 or 2004) ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY.
3. BIDDERS FOR ITEM-1 SCHEDULE I MUST PRESENT EMB-DENR ACCREDITATION AS HAZ-WASTE TRANSPORTER AND/OR TREATER (ORIGINAL MUST BE PRESENTED).

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00 / Schedule from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. / Mr. Al Plata at MMD, Ground floor, Bldg.-1, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM, February 23, 2005.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI – February 9, 10 & 11, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
7th Judicial Region
BRANCH 27, LAPU-LAPU CITY

IN RE: PETITION FOR LAND REGISTRATION

Land Reg. No. N-115-L
LOT NO. 424
CORDOVA CEBU

SPS. MARGARITO CANIN and CANDELARIA INOC-CANIN,
Applicants.
x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

The hearing of the above case for applicant of Original Certificate of Title is hereby set on March 16, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon before RTC Branch 27, 2nd Floor, Hall of Justice, Pusok, Lapu-lapu City

Cause the publication of the notice of hearing at the expense of petitioner once in the Official Gazette and once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, to be chosen by raffle and the posting of the Notice of Hearing in a conspicuous place in the Lapu-lapu City hall, Lapu-lapu City Hall of Justice and on Lot No. 424 located at Brgy. Poblacion, Cordova, Cebu

Let notice of this Order be served on the Administrator of the National Land Titles and Deeds Registration Administrator, the Hon. Solicitor General, the Regional Executive Director of the DENR, the Community Environment and natural Resources of the Lands Management Sector DLNR, the adjoining owners, the herein applicants and their counsel.

SO ORDERED.

Lapu-lapu City, Philippines, December 9, 2004

(Sgd.) JESUS S. DE LA PEÑA
Presiding Judge

(PDI--Feb. 11, 2005)

Rush Sale

Office Condo Unit

Cityland Condominium 10 Tower 1
Unit 2414, 20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Floor Area = 65.56 square meters

Please call or text Ms. Edith Dychao
0917-8980588

R A 9048 Form No 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Misamis Oriental
Municipality of Lugait
-o0o-
OFFICE OF THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that WINIFREDO A. BUSTRIA has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from WYNNY to WINIFREDO in the birth certificate of WINIFREDO A. BUSTRIA who was born on September 21, 1953 at BAWO, SOGOD, CEBU and whose parents are GENEROSO BUSTRIA and VICENTA ARCILLAS

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than February 14, 2005

(Sgd.) ALMA MONSANTO-CADILE
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - Feb 11 & 18, 2005)

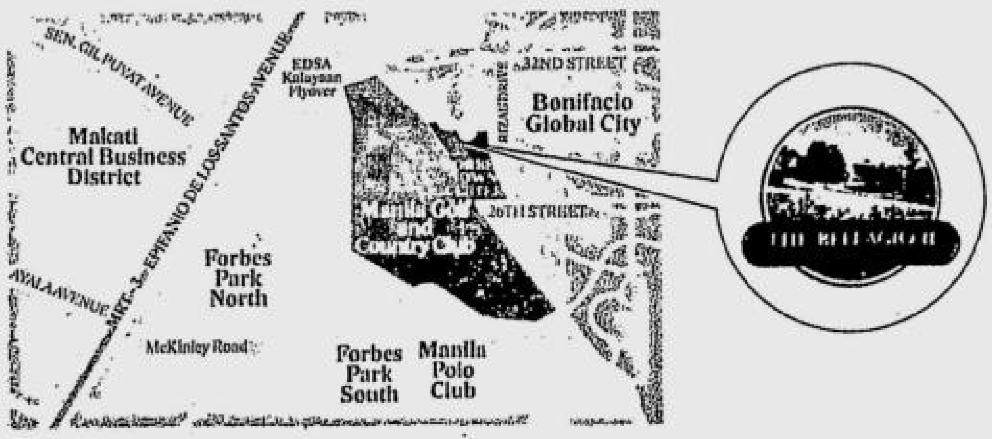
THE BELLAGIO II
GOLF VIEW RESIDENCES

Fronting Manila Golf & Country Club

Architect's perspective of Forbes Town Road

Home
Is Where the Fun Is

At the Bellagio II, an outdoor leisure extravaganza is at the heart of your indulgent lifestyle. And it's literally on your doorstep. Something hits the senses in every direction: restaurants, cafés, shops, a tree-lined promenade, landscaped plazas. Wander at will or follow your nose to the places that serve menus from the East and the West. Browse the shops bursting with delightful surprises. Or linger over cappuccino in an outdoor café. After work, head for an upscale bar and mix sumptuous food with chill-out jazz. Anytime you feel like having a good time, leave your car keys behind. At the Bellagio II, fun is a dish served again and again.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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Her first trip to best ad fest will be as RP's first jury rep

ABRERA goes to Cannes

By Angel V. Guerrero
Contributor

THE CANNES Advertising Festival in France is acknowledged to be the most prestigious advertising awards competition in the world. Now on its 52nd year, it has for the first time offered the Philippines a seat and a voice in the judging process where over 18,000 television, press and outdoor ads, websites, integrated campaigns, media and direct marketing projects are entered. All are vying to be named the best in the world.

Hopes are running high that this appointment will help the Philippines achieve its first Cannes Lion award in mainstream media. The country has, however, achieved a Cannes Bronze for Direct Marketing for the "Dos por Dos" campaign from BCD Pinpoint, a DM firm headed by Dickie Soriano.

Emily Abrera, chair of McCann-Erickson, the country's largest and most established advertising agency, has been chosen as the country's first judge in the Cannes Adfest, a predominantly European and American panel of top admen. Only in recent years have we seen more Asian judges taking part in this very important task.

Creative at heart

After 32 years in the business, 26 of which were in McCann, Emily Abrera is the most distinguished and accomplished advertising person who, some describe as the "godmother of the industry." She was named the country's first female president of a multinational ad agency in 1992. The agency she chairs won the Agency of the Year title five times in the 7-year competition—a feat no other agency can boast of. Abrera is a creative person at heart and was behind famous ads for Del Monte Sauces, Coca-Cola and Johnson & Johnson. She is among the few creative talents who now hold the top agency position.

Tina Coscuella, the head of Ogilvy & Mather, remarks on Abrera's appointment, "it is only fitting that they give the privilege to the one person who has the stature, passion for creative and most importantly the credibility that is so crucial in an appointment such as this."

David Guerrero, chair of BBDO, a regular Cannes delegate, and a regional Cannes Gold Lion winner says, "I think her selection will do a lot to enhance the acceptance and credibility of Cannes in the client and agency community."

On being chosen as a Cannes 2005 judge in the Press and Outdoor category, Abrera elates "It is exciting! All of these years, every time we talk about going to Cannes (in the agency), we think of sending the younger ones because they will continue writing the ads." She laughs, "I would give up going! Compared to other creative competitions, Cannes takes the development of creative people seriously." This will be Abrera's first time in Cannes.

The weeklong event in June, offers top level seminars, the Roger Hatchuel Lions Academy and the Young Creatives competition, aside from its reason for being, the creative competition. This year, we see the country sending our first young creative team to participate in the Young Creatives competition. This, thanks to the Philippine Daily Inquirer being the country's Official Cannes Representative.

More Asians needed

There have been frequent discussions among Asian ad practitioners on the need for foreign judges to be more sensitive to and familiar with the cultural nuances of Asians to better appreciate the impact that Asian advertising have on their local audience. This has become less of an issue thanks to globalization, cable TV, the availability of award books and reels in the worldwide ad community and the Asian faces in award juries!

Abrera says her contribution to Cannes is to bring her knowledge of Asian and Filipino values, and cultural sensitivity to the table. "Even today, the cultures are not as homógenous as you think they would be. The world has never before had anything closely or remotely resembling a global culture. There are specific references, cultural references (in the ads). It can come from anywhere. It may have come from some popular film that catches the fancy of everybody. Sometimes you can't tell what the reference is to. You may catch the humor but not on as many levels as is intended for that particular market." "There are many local campaigns here that are very successful and are picked up by word-of-mouth—but they never win internationally. All references that allude to a stronger western culture are given predominance."

Her role in Cannes is "perhaps the same role I have always been doing here." That is, "being a creative and being a woman."

Who could win

When asked on which local ads could possibly make it at Cannes:

"I don't think it's fair to comment on any but I think TBWA has some good pieces, same with BBDO and Leo Burnett. Hopefully this year we will see many more entries." She would prefer to see outstanding Filipino ads win not because it is as good as the rest but because it is a Filipino ad. "It should be uniquely part of our culture." Like the McDonald's "Simbang Gabi" TV commercial. "Some of our ads tend to be overwesternized."

She cites poor production quality as a key reason for why ads from the Philippines do not make it big. "Production quality here is not at par with the quality internationally. When we see all the films put together, it looks pretty good but when you put it side by side with the rest you can see how poor the quality is. A judge may mentally put it into a lower category." And "Our ads have too much dialogue!"

On the importance of winning an international creative award. "It is something all creatives aspire for. But just like all the rest of us, we need partnership with clients." Many clients Abrera says "see a dichotomy between what wins and what works for them. But if any of them had the experience of winning an award, that is the most converting experience."

Procter & Gamble, the world's largest advertiser, paved the way on the client front by sending a record number of delegates to Cannes last year in its global marketing effort to produce highly creative and relevant advertising. This is very encouraging for an industry that thrives on creativity.

On what makes a winning ad? Abrera said, "It just jumps out at you. More often than not the ad engages you immediately. In real life you don't watch an ad a couple of times and ponder it before you say you like it. Also, you don't expect an ad with a lot of information to win. That is what it was supposed to do a couple of decades ago but today people aren't so much looking for information but just looking for entertainment. Just a moment when they can connect with the brand. That is sufficient."

How does one prepare for grueling hours and days of judging thousands of ads in sunny Cannes? "Sleep on the plane?", she humors. "I guess there is point you mentally prepare for that. We have been doing that (judging ads) for 30 years!"

Heading an agency as large and established as McCann

HER/ B2-2

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BMW Executive Days
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Driving Pleasure

One car is new.
Only your wallet will know the difference.

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3

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Selected BMW Executive cars – available at all authorized BMW dealers. And with our special financing offer, these days turn into a celebration of sheer pleasure: no monthly amortization, just 3 equal payments at 0% interest*.

1/3 - down payment 1/3 - on the 12th month 1/3 - on the 24th month

* Provided equal payments due are paid in full and subject to bank approval by Security Bank.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0600 Series of 2005

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ABRERA

Her first trip to . . .

From page B2-1

would have offered many creative opportunities. What has been the stumbling block? "Maybe we give up a little too easy. You can sell and sell and sell and finally you get to go back the thinking room and say, 'Let's look for another way to do this'. But in the end sometimes we just give in." But the passion to win remains.

As chair emeritus of McCann-Erickson Philippines, Emily Abrera comes to the office three times a week and is still on call for major strategic decisions. "It is good because there is a lot of distance now between the day-to-day. Because of the distance, you can give advice that is a little more objective."

Aside from the ad world, Abrera finds time to chair the Cultural Center of the Philippines and is involved in numerous other organizations. An Agora Awardee for Marketing Management and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the 4A's, Abrera continues to do her bit to help the country—this time as our first judge in Cannes.

Worldwide Creative Director of TBWA/Worldwide, John Hunt has been named the Jury President for Film, Press and Outdoor. Creative Magazine has ranked TBWA the most awarded network in 2004.

The Titanium Lions will be relaunched this year as an Integrated Campaign Award, "but will retain its original spirit—that of celebrating communication with the "wow" factor," said festival CEO Terry Savage. Jerry Goodby, co-chairman of Goodby Silverstein & Partner, will be jury president for this new section. PJ Periera, creative director of AgenciaClick, Brazil will head the Cyber Lions Jury; Mark Stewart, chief strategy officer of Universal McCann takes on the Media Lions Jury; Dr. Fred Koblinger, CEO of BBDO Austria, Pala Koblinger Proximity is jury head for Lions Direct; and Malcolm Poynton, executive creative director of Ogilvy & Mather London, was named the Radio Jury president.

To be part of this prestigious advertising event which runs from June 19-25, 2005 in Cannes, France, log on to www.canneslions.com for up-to-date news on the festival, delegate registration and advertising entry details.

'Bad networker' builds direct marketing empire

LESSER mortals would have wallowed in misery when faced with a failure.

But Andrian Lee is different. Never mind if he was rendered almost bankrupt because of bad start-up decisions during the Asian crisis. Never mind if he failed big time as a network marketer.

Today, Andrian is known to a growing number of Filipinos as the entrepreneur's entrepreneur.

This communication arts graduate from Ateneo de Manila University started his trek to success in the corporate world where he developed and launched new products.

Twice he started his own business. Twice he failed.

"The money I lost in those two businesses was more than enough to pay for an MBA degree in the US," says Andrian. "But I have no regrets."

The soon-to-be champion of direct marketing was himself a big failure at it. "My total personal sales volume did not even reach a thousand pesos."

"Had I not experienced those terrible failures, I would not have achieved success in my entrepreneurial endeavors," he explains.

Trevoca, a multivitamin, became his first big success. The multivitamin's formulation is backed by 5,000 doctors all over the country.

The Hong Kong-based company operates primarily in the former British colony, the Philippines and the Middle East.

"Trevoca became a success not only because of its flagship product but also because we tapped the wonder of technology," says Andrian, who partnered with Yehey! founder Dave Quitoriano in developing an online distribution system for Trevoca.

The online distribution system Andrian helped create enabled Trevoca's partners to check their updated accounts, bonus and transactions in real time and online. It made Trevoca reachable to the whole world and most especially to the self-employed distributors system.

The system would soon be called Harmonde and became a tool for making success stories out of those who signed up.

Reinventing green tea, inventing Resensa as Trevoca chief executive officer, Andrian assumed a passion for business and educational.

ANDRIAN Lee

This gave him another opening he did not expect: his penchant for green tea, which he always loved, led him to actually recreate it.

"I thought about making green tea become more palatable to Filipinos who like their drinks sweet and prepared in an instant," shares Andrian who immediately sat down with his business partners on his idea and sought their views.

His team was excited by the idea and went to the drawing board. Andrian went around Asia for possible sources of green tea, giving their product developers all sorts of green tea types and test-tasting hundreds of concoctions.

"We successfully formulated the green tea that's sweet and easy to prepare. Moreover, countless scientific studies point out that green tea, be it hot or cold, contains more anti-oxidants beneficial to the body," says Andrian.

The result: Resensa Green Iced Tea, a world's first.

With a winning product such as Resensa Green Iced Tea and a winning setup such as the Harmonde relational e-commerce system, Andrian was well on his way to successful entrepreneurship.

One by one, newbies and veterans of direct marketing began to discover the winning product and system and opted to work with Andrian.

Their number exceeded 60,000 and they all use the Harmonde relational e-commerce system, making it one of a few bright spots and perhaps one of the most successful in the field of local Internet commerce.

These days, Resensa Green Iced Tea has been adopted as a specialty drink in some hotels and restaurants.

More households, including those of doctors, have chucked the usual cola in favor of the more healthy Resensa Green Iced Tea.

"No direct marketing company could perhaps claim of having a networking army composed of tens of thousands and of an e-commerce system that's always online and gives results real-time and on-demand," says Andrian.

Bringing success to others

But what matters most for Andrian is not in creating products and systems, but in creating opportunities for success for many others.

"Direct marketing would not have worked had Trevoca, Harmonde or Resensa not shared the opportunities to its direct marketers. We continue to succeed because we help our direct marketers become success stories in their own right," says Andrian.

Still developing new ideas

Except for keeping his weekends free for himself and his family, there seems to be no rest for this entrepreneur and inventor.

"Retiring early? I have not imagined that," he says.

Since starting Trevoca and Resensa, Andrian has gone on to attract British investors for the "Memories Instant Computer Scrapbook," the world's first Filipino-designed software that preserves digitized photos.

Andrian has also put Resensa in a position to champion Filipino creativity and artistry via FiestaMundo.com.

BAD NETWORKER/ B2-3

AT 170 BHP... IT'LL BE FAST. AT P399,000.00 DP*...

* Financing options subject to bank approval. P399,000.00 is 20% downpayment, with a monthly installment of P54,530.00 for 36 months.
** Complete exterior sport kit available as an option.

Rewarding spending with cash rebates

CITIBANK breaks new ground with the launching of the Citibank Cash Back Card, the country's first, dedicated cash back credit card. The new plastic will offer cardholders cash rebates for all charges made to the card—from 0.5 percent to as high as 2.5 percent—redefining the concept of rewards for consumer spending.

Citibank's country business manager for global consumer group Nina Aguas said that the cash rebate credit cards have been a growing trend in the United States over the recent years. "As the country's leading innovator in card products and services, we are always looking for ways to meet the changing needs of our customer. And we feel the Filipino consumer is now ready for a dedicated cash back credit card. Indeed, what could be more practical than to get back cash credits for all your spending."

In the United States, the evolution from rewards points to redeem an assortment of items to cash rebate features reflects a growing demand for the latter. To date, over 35 percent of credit cards in the US now offer cash rebates.

With the Citibank Cash Back Card, cardholders will receive a minimum of 0.5 percent cash rebate on all their card charges. If the cardholder decides not to pay all of his outstanding balance for the month, he gets to earn a higher cash back based on a tiered rate structure: One percent for outstanding amounts between P2,500 to P14,999, 1.5 percent for P15,000 to P44,999 and 2.5 percent for outstanding amounts over P45,000.

The rebates will be automatically credited in the next month's billing statement, which means the cardholder enjoys immediate savings on interest payments, effectively reducing his credit card bills monthly.

Citibank is also giving the public more reasons to apply for the new card soon: A 3-percent cash back bonus on dining expenses, utility bills and tuition fees on top of the regular cash back rate from now until June 30, 2005. This offer is on top of the 0.5 percent to 2.5 percent cash rebates you can earn from your monthly spending and balances. That's cash credits you can spend for almost anything. Plus, new approved applicants who have yet to own a Citibank card will enjoy waived first year fees—savings of as much as P1,800.

The Citibank Cash Back Card also comes with other features designed to ensure the customer gets the maximum cash back each time. Aside from cash rebates from his spending, the cardholder can get as many as seven supplementary cards for family and friends, so they can pool their purchases and maximize the cash back. And to make the offer more tempting, Citibank will waive the first year fees for the supplementary cards.

'Bad networker' builds ...

From page B2-2

Yet another of his many ideas, FiestaMundo.com aims to gather the best of budding new and old talents in a site that hopes to be the world's first community for Filipino music and fun.

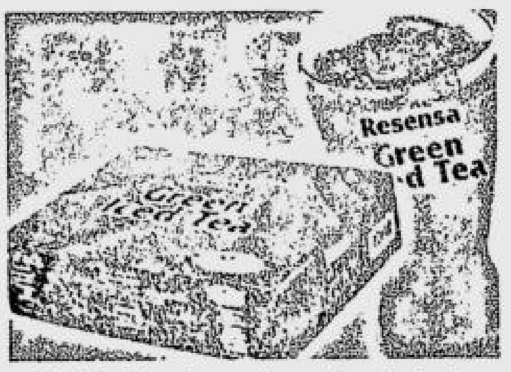
"It's a movement to create, chronicle and celebrate our music for all our people and the world to see and feel," says Andrian. "We are proud to empower our artists and making them well-known locally and internationally."

On to the future

An avid fan of leadership and team-building guru John Maxwell, Andrian says the country and our people have much to learn too from the failures we have all gone through.

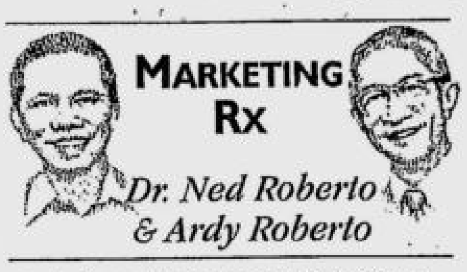
"There is light at the end of the tunnel," he says. "If only we aggressively create and spread wealth as entrepreneurs, not be content with the *'pwede na 'yan'* mentality, we could well bring the country to stand on its own feet and claim its rightful place in the world map."

"We only have to learn from our failures, dream big and spread the wealth we manage to create," says Andrian.



MAKERS claim the tea is good for the body

How to market CSR programs—II



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

LAST week, we answered the question, "How should we be marketing our corporate social responsibility programs?" by presenting and commenting on the Q&A portion of the League of Corporate Foundations' breakfast conference with Jude Mannion, executive director of the Robin Hood Foundation of New Zealand.

Mannion's answer was direct and simple: "Market your CSR (programs) the way you market the introduction of a new product!"

Here's the last part of the Q&A and our comments/insights:

Audience: Your (Robin Hood Foundation presentation) showed data about where corporate sponsorship money is going in the US. The biggest and top two recipients are sponsorship of sports ($8.39 billion accounting for 69 percent of total), and entertainment ($1.15 billion which is 10 percent of total). "Causes" gets $1.08 billion and that is third and 9 percent of total. The growth in cause sponsorship is tremendous. It was $120 million some 15 years ago in 1990. If you take account of how much of sports and entertainment sponsorships are actually for causes, isn't cause sponsorship much larger and may be as large as, if not larger than, sports sponsorship?

Mannion: The figures are not survey figures but audited figures from company accounting records. But I will check and find out if the accountants did the correct assignment of expenses.

Social marketing strategy

MRx Comment: Whether or not accountants made the correct cost allocation is not the significant practical issue. The truly practical issue is this: "How effective is it to promote a "cause" via sports and entertainment sponsorship?"

Social marketing's model of stages in influencing and shaping consumers' adoption behavior is the logic behind the practice of promoting a "cause" that rides in a sports or entertainment sponsorship. This model prescribes that if you know that catching the consumers' attention and holding that attention are with their fascination with sports and entertainment, then take advantage of that. Catch and hold consumers' attention for a "cause" by embedding it in sports and entertainment, and/or by getting sports and entertainment talents and celebrities as endorsers and ambassadors of the cause. This is a legitimate and proven effective strategy in advocacy and social marketing. For more on this strategy, the reader might want to refer to "Social Marketing" (2nd edition) by Philip Kotler, Ned Roberto and Nancy Lee (Sage Publishing, California. Not available at local bookstores. Call 813-2703/32 for a copy or go the AIM Library.).

On 'compassion fatigue'

Audience: Over the years,, many companies who have been into CSR are experiencing "compassion fatigue." That's the issue of how to properly deal with the many social and development problems crying for help and assistance. How do we resolve this issue?

Mannion: To start with, let's avoid using the term "compassion fatigue." That does not come across too well especially to those with legitimate needs for help. But the answer is to set priorities. What do you want your company to stand for? CSR is a new way of doing business. "Stand for something ... or stand for nothing." In America, the consumer is now saying: "If you don't stand for something ... then I'll punish you." The latest AC Nielsen survey tells us that 42 percent of American consumers punished socially irresponsible companies by not buying their products. Nearly half of American consumers said their perception of a company led them to consider rewarding or punishing that company by purchasing or not purchasing its products or services, or by speaking up for or against it.

MRx Comment: It's clear that the practical question here is how to set the appropriate priorities. One school of thinking is in Mannion's prescription. Set the priorities according to what the corporation wants to stand for, or according to what its professed corporate vision and mission requires. Social marketing sees this as "starting from where you are" (as the socially responsible company). This is not a criticism. It's a statement of value preference.

The other school of thought has a contrasting prescription. It says: "In any social marketing program, always start from where your target beneficiaries and stakeholders are, and not from where you are no matter how good your intentions may be."

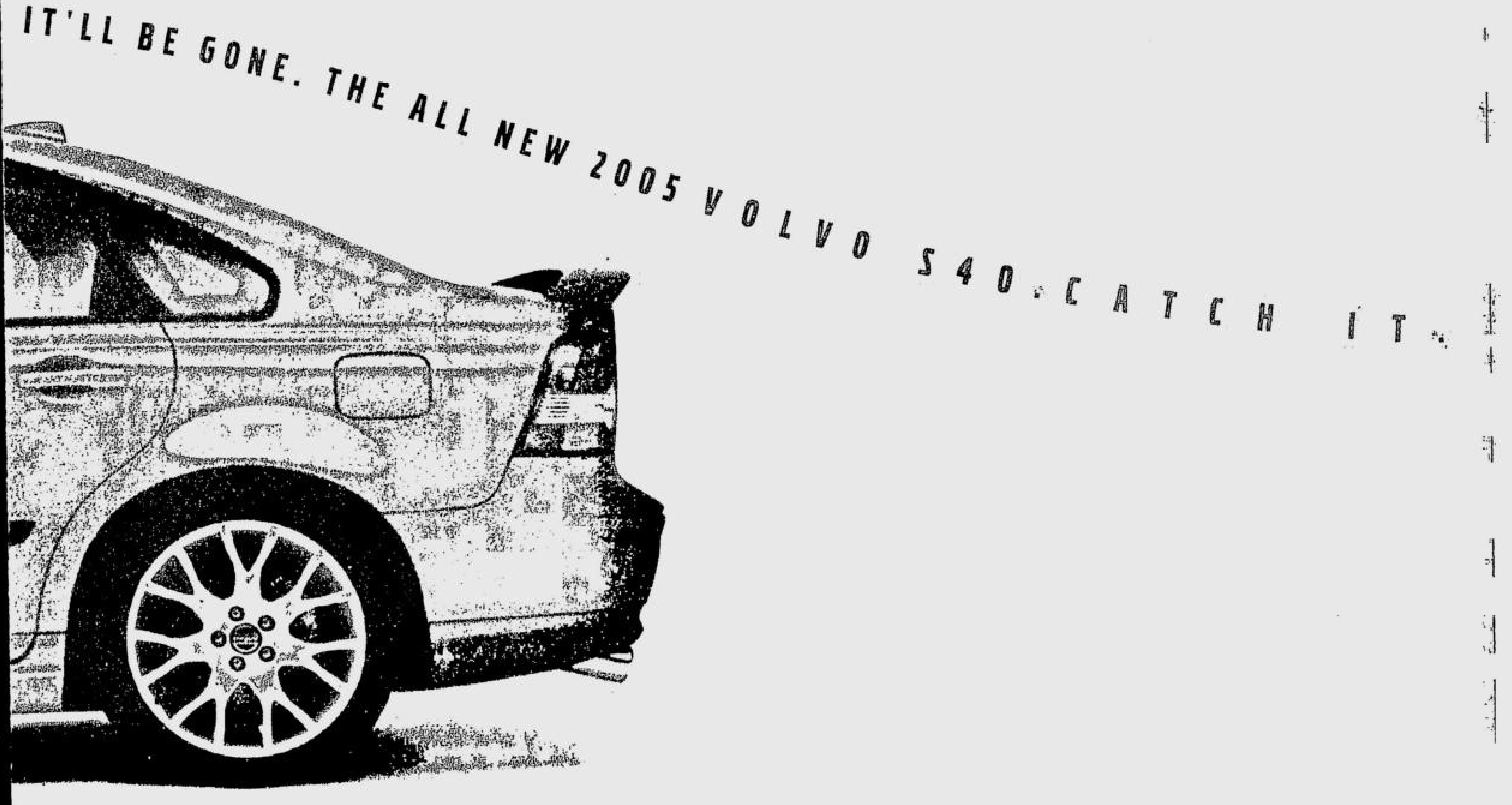
We have been involved in assisting a religious group in planning its poverty alleviation program. In our initial planning session, we started with the question of how we should help the poor. This group was sincere and inspired in quickly saying: "We know what the poor needs." And when asked what, the answer was: "They need to live God-centered lives. And that's what we must teach them."

In the community where the poverty alleviation program was to start, our survey and the results of our one-day immersion and observation showed that poor families did not have three square meals a day and children are often sent to school without having taken breakfast. Clearly, the immediate and crying need was for a feeding program. This should be the program's entry stage target, and then after the spiritual needs can be addressed. This is the meaning of the prescription stating that the priority should be set according to where those we want to help are situated.

Before he retired from teaching at AIM, the senior MRx-er occupied the Coca-Cola Foundation Professorial Chair of Marketing at AIM. In planning its CSR projects in many different parts of Asia, the Coca-Cola Foundation follows this system of priority setting. Its CSR managers immerse themselves in the lives of poor families in communities that host the Coca-Cola plant. What come out as the priority concerns and problems of the community become the CSR program priorities for that specific community.

There is a specially designed survey technique for uncovering a community's true and operative priority concerns. For this, please refer to Ned Roberto's 2002 book, "How to Make Local Governance Work" (Asian Institute of Management).

Feedback at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.



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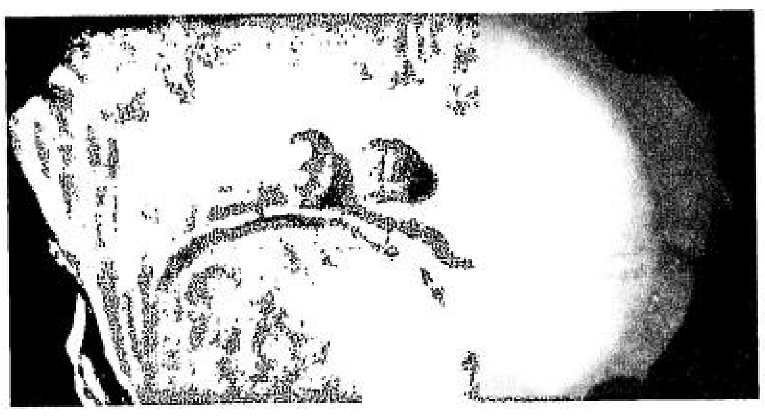
THE PEARL PRINCIPLE

Generative leadership: Initiate change from within

By Nelia Cruz-Sarcol
Contributor



INDIVIDUALITY is needed to change for the better

LAST year, my friends and I were talking about grim news in the broadsheets, radio and television. We felt that there had been too many talks and debates of "why" these awful things continue to happen to our country and the "who" are causing or have caused these events to happen.

Many of us keep looking back and digging dirt while creating other mounds as we dig. These mounds will eventually have to be cleared and dug again. The endless transferring of dirt from left to right, front and back, continue to go on...... We are digging here and there, maybe to bury ourselves in?

"Does anybody have a solution?"

One of my friends, who had seen efforts from the extreme left to the extreme right, had been battle-scarred, so to speak, in quest of an answer. According to him, everyone has advice to give but not many are acting on their proposed solutions—too difficult they say. I guess maybe because they—themselves are "problems."

My small group comprise of "Don Quixotes." However, we do not wish to fight windmills. We are dreamers, yes—not of a new Philippines but of the TRUE Philippines—which has always been called "The Pearl of the Orient"—"Perlas ng Silanganan."

The truth of the matter is that solving the problems of our country is a Herculean task. This process of transformation will take some time. However, by accepting this fact, we would have won half the battle. If only we will accept such, then we can plan better what to do next, so we can move up to the next step, instead of "band-aid" solutions here and there. "Band-aid" solutions will get us nowhere.

Own spheres

This truth led us to the Pearl Principle. To be able to solve the problems of our country, we need to individually take it upon ourselves to change for the better. And as we evolve and reach out to people within our spheres of influence, something will spark!

This concept must first be embraced by a good number of the middle class and must be led by the middle class. The elite and captains of industry of our society have been given multiple chances to lead this change, but it just won't take off. However, if all people from all strata of society will embrace it, well and good. However, I personally believe that the middle class must lead—for they are still within reach by those from below and can truly feel for the great masses. The middle class have not lost their dreams (yet) and they can inspire others to hope. They can show how dreams can be fulfilled and that dreams can still be fulfilled. They can be the bridge to our future as a people.

It will only take one ordinary person to start the spark and spread the flame until it becomes big enough to touch others and move them to the same direction.

This is the mission of the Pearl Principle. To awaken the resolve from the majority that each has a hand in creating the true Philippines.

Proponents of the Pearl Principle are pragmatic idealists. They do not just prescribe. They know that each awakened spirit must also have skills and competence to effect change within one's sphere of influence. Notice that we always use the term "within one's sphere of influence." This is because of the proponents' belief that the core must be strong and the core of society comprises of the individual, his family and his immediate community.

Gear theory

The competence to effect change within one's sphere is called generative leadership rooted in the Gear Theory of Development.

The Gear Theory states that a single gear by itself is almost useless. It has to get engaged with other gears to create movement/motion and energy. A person who has evolved because of the Pearl Principle must "engage" with other "gears" or people of the same mind-set. One will not be able to achieve much if he just keeps to himself.

He will need to become a generative leader who can make others hope and live again. He leads, inspires, visualizes, and engages his people to create new solutions, generate new ideas, think out of the box.

Create stands for creation, reinvention, enrichment, adaptation/assimilation, transformation and enlightenment. These thinking processes are operational in a person's brain only if he is in a state of optimism. Pragmatic idealists who are true disciples of the Pearl Principle possess these abilities.

They lead because they inspire others with the way they live their lives along tenets of morality. They are guided by a noble vision—living lives of purpose and commitment to make a difference and contribute to making the world a better place by being good, doing good, spreading goodness within their spheres of influence .... because all of our spheres of influence put together make up the entire Filipino people. To get to 80 million, we must begin with number "1." We are all part of the big picture.

The Pearl Principle position on Generative Leadership is that it should also be evident in the work ethics of a person. First, he must possess self-mastery. He must engage his team to create and reinvent new ways to do things, products and services which enrich lives of people and our ecology, keeping in mind how such new ways of doing things, products and services adapt and assimilate cultural differences. His actions must be purposeful in the hope that these will contribute to the transformation of society while his decisions should help enlighten even those around him. A true generative leader sees himself at the center of a unified field of diverse energies that can fuel change.

Feedback at ncs.pearl@cie.edu

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

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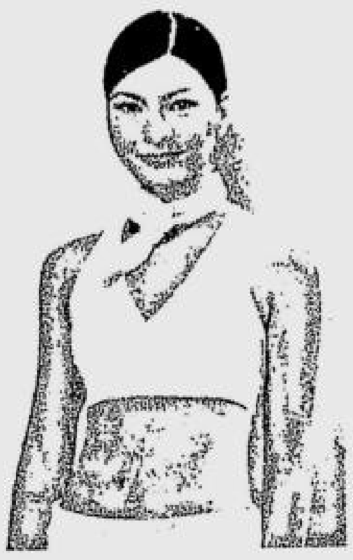
IN THIS ISSUE

BEAUTY list to check out /D1



LOOK, Ma, no stretch marks /E2

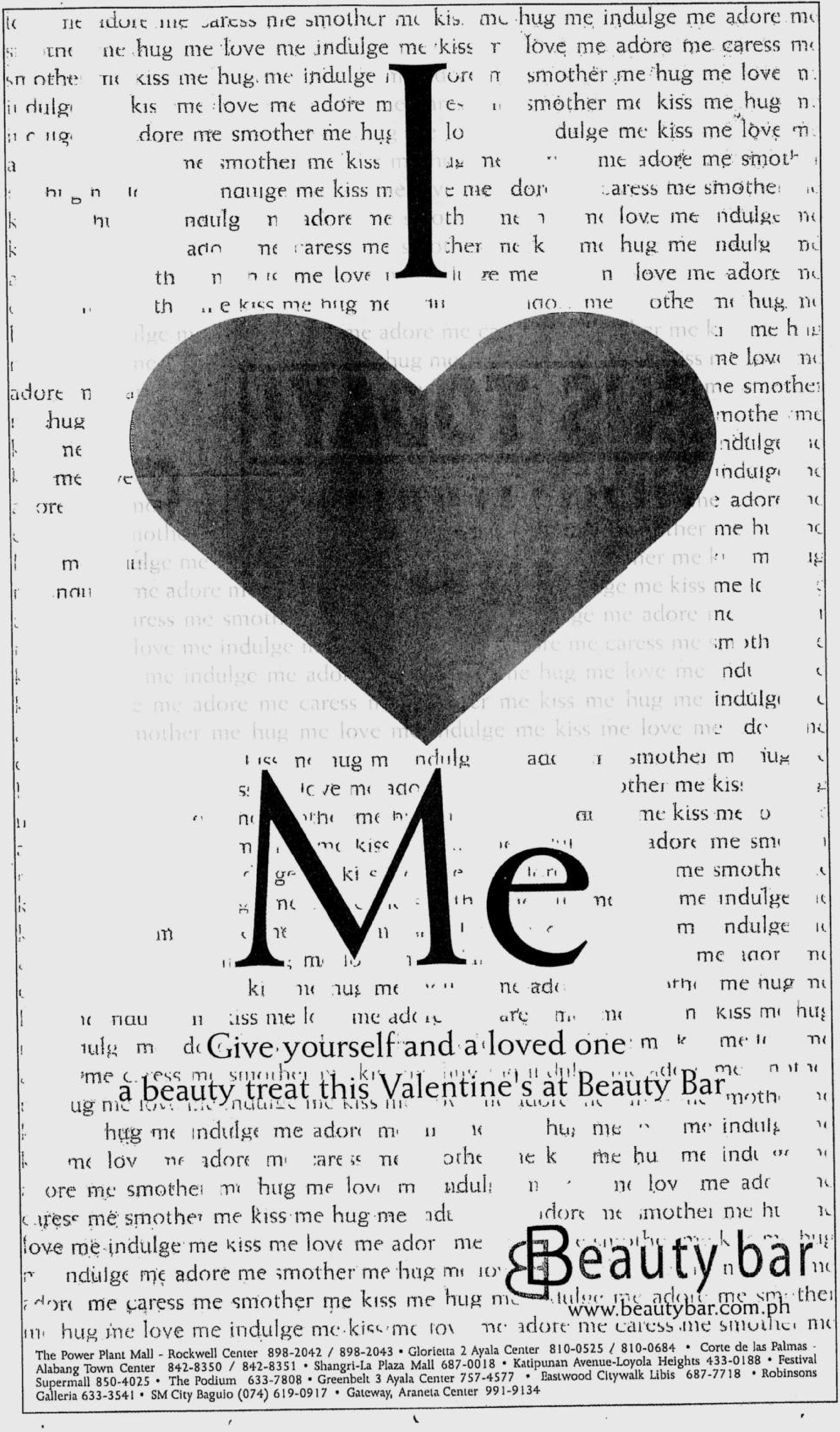
THREE-ring circus /F1

MONIQUE Lhuillier: From LA red carpet to NY ramp /G3

A WORLDWIDE web of shops /H1

Shopping for Romance

Story on page C4



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Young fashion for Valentine

ON HER: 3/4 off-shoulder top with a feather brooch accent matched with striped stretch bootleg pants with wide-hip belt. On him: casual shirt with fine checks and black piping matched with acid-washed denim pants

STUDIO Ritratto gears up for the love season with cool collections for the young set.

Among the hottest finds for Valentine's is the "Dress to Kiss" collection that features sensuous red and pink dresses. It includes empire-cut minis, classy and casual dress shirts and polo shirts, and stylish slacks.

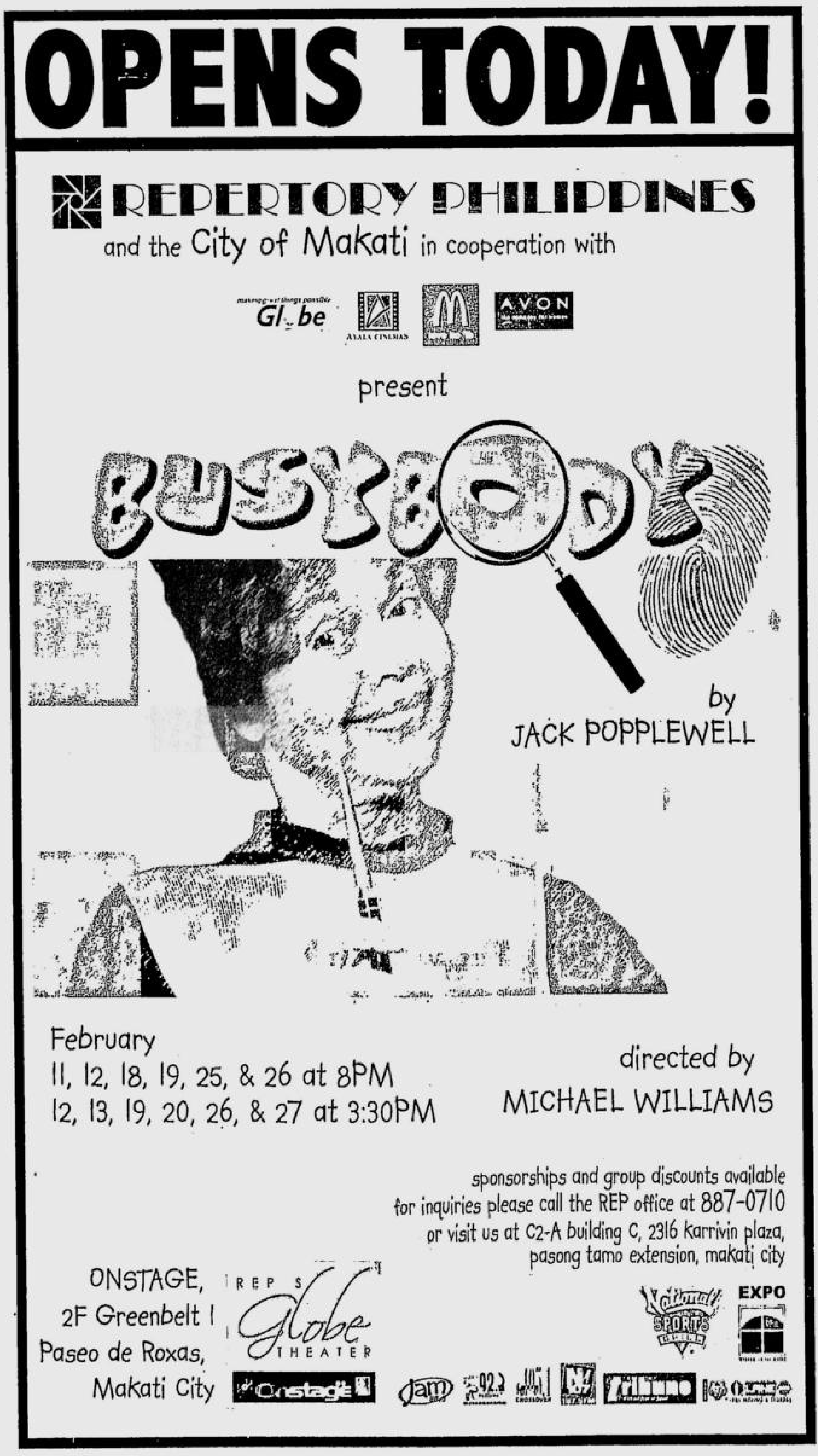
For daytime or nighttime gimmicks, girls can choose from Studio Ritratto's wide array of fashion items ranging from alluring stretch and one-sided single strap dresses, to mix and match fitted tops, short skirts and pants, shirts and off-shoulder blouses; and denim, bootleg and Capri pants.

Boys can choose from formal and casual shirts with short or long sleeves, denims and slacks, and other items suitable whether they are in a sporty or dressy mood.

Studio Rtiratto also has fun accessories to complete whatever look is chosen—belts, brooches, pins and chains.

Studio Ritratto's boutique is located at 1/L Glorietta 1 in Ayala Center, Makati City.

ON HER: a pink tube velvet dress with layered chiffon skirt. On him: shirt with "V" stripes matched with soft black wool pants



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BUSYBODY
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JACK POPPLEWELL

February
11, 12, 18, 19, 25, & 26 at 8PM
12, 13, 19, 20, 26, & 27 at 3:30PM

directed by
MICHAEL WILLIAMS

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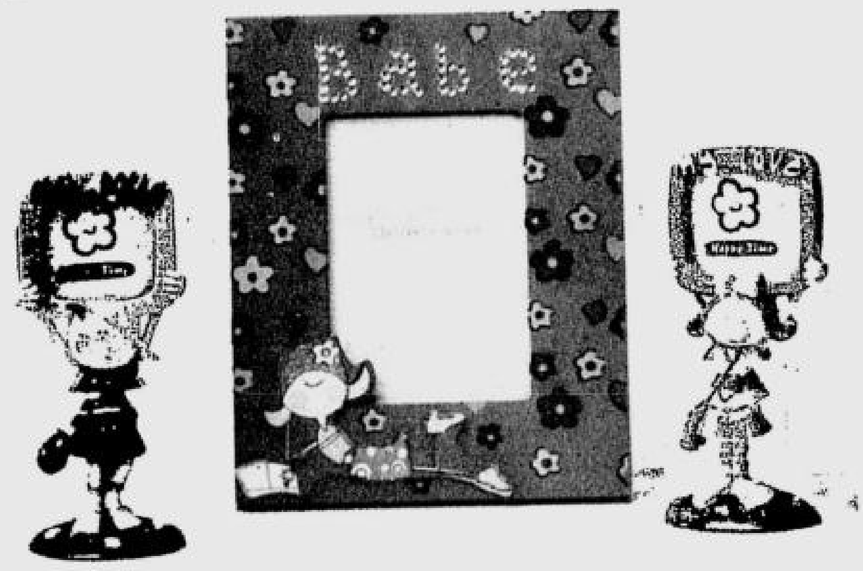


COLORFUL character frames

A little gift-giving help

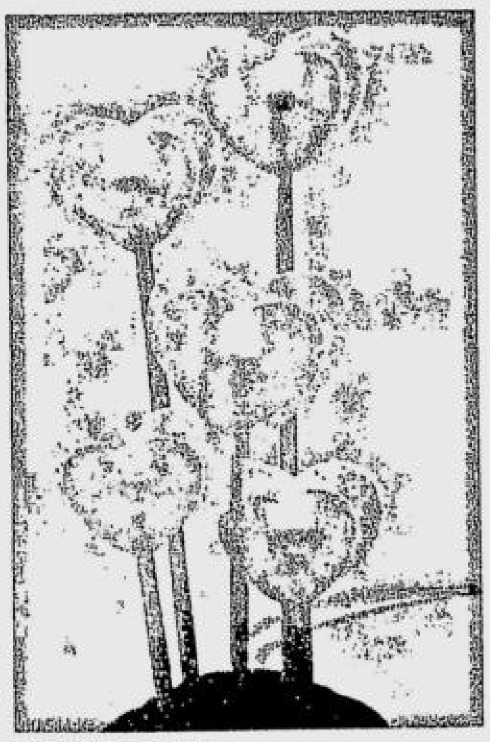
GET a little help in choosing a Valentine gift for that special someone from Robinsons Department Store (RDS).

Among the store's wide range of affordable gifts to choose from are necklace with heart pendant and heart earrings, stuffed toys, balloons, fragrances, and heart lamps and photo frames.

Also, remember to invest in a little time together. Plan simple bonding activities like a trip to the museum, a picnic or even an afternoon at RDS.

Give your loved ones RDS gift certificates and send them on a Valentine shopping spree.

Visit the nearest Robinsons Department Stores in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Starmall-Shaw, Metropolis and Festival Malls-Alabang and Nepo Mall-Pampanga. Log on to www.rds.com.ph.



HEART desk lamp

VALENTINE balloon bouquet

TWO-CHAINED silver necklace with heart pendants

BROWN satchel in embossed Italian crocodile skin

LIME handbag in embossed Italian crocodile skin

All about texture

THE FEEL of Italian leather and crocodile skin marks the latest collection from Via Venetto, a brand known for showcasing the best of homegrown designs as well as introducing in the Philippines the latest leather innovations and fashion from Europe.

The classic metallic leather gets a new twist as the all-time favorite ballerina flats downplay their girlish image with soft and supple Italian kidskin material done in a crackled and glittery finish. The shoes come in silver, gold, candy pink and red colors.

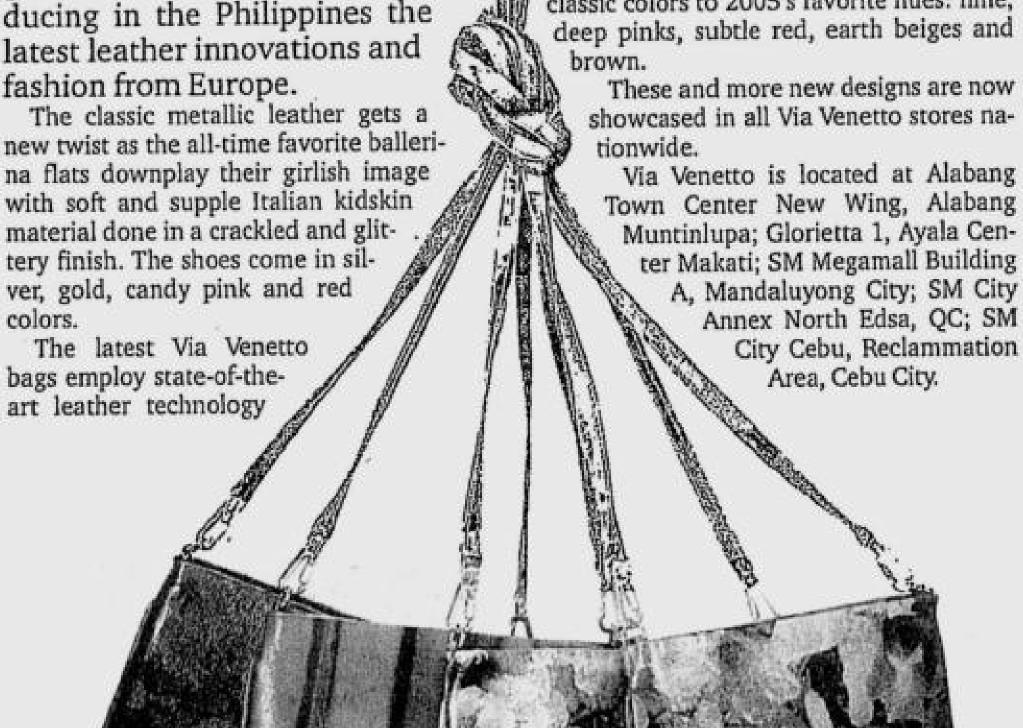
The latest Via Venetto bags employ state-of-the-art leather technology to imprint paintings of flowers and stripes on leather materials. The structure of the bags may be very casual, but the gorgeous prints make the pieces stand out day or night.

Femininity and bohemianism also make a return with satchels of embossed Italian crocodile skin. The palette ranges from classic colors to 2005's favorite hues: lime, deep pinks, subtle red, earth beiges and brown.

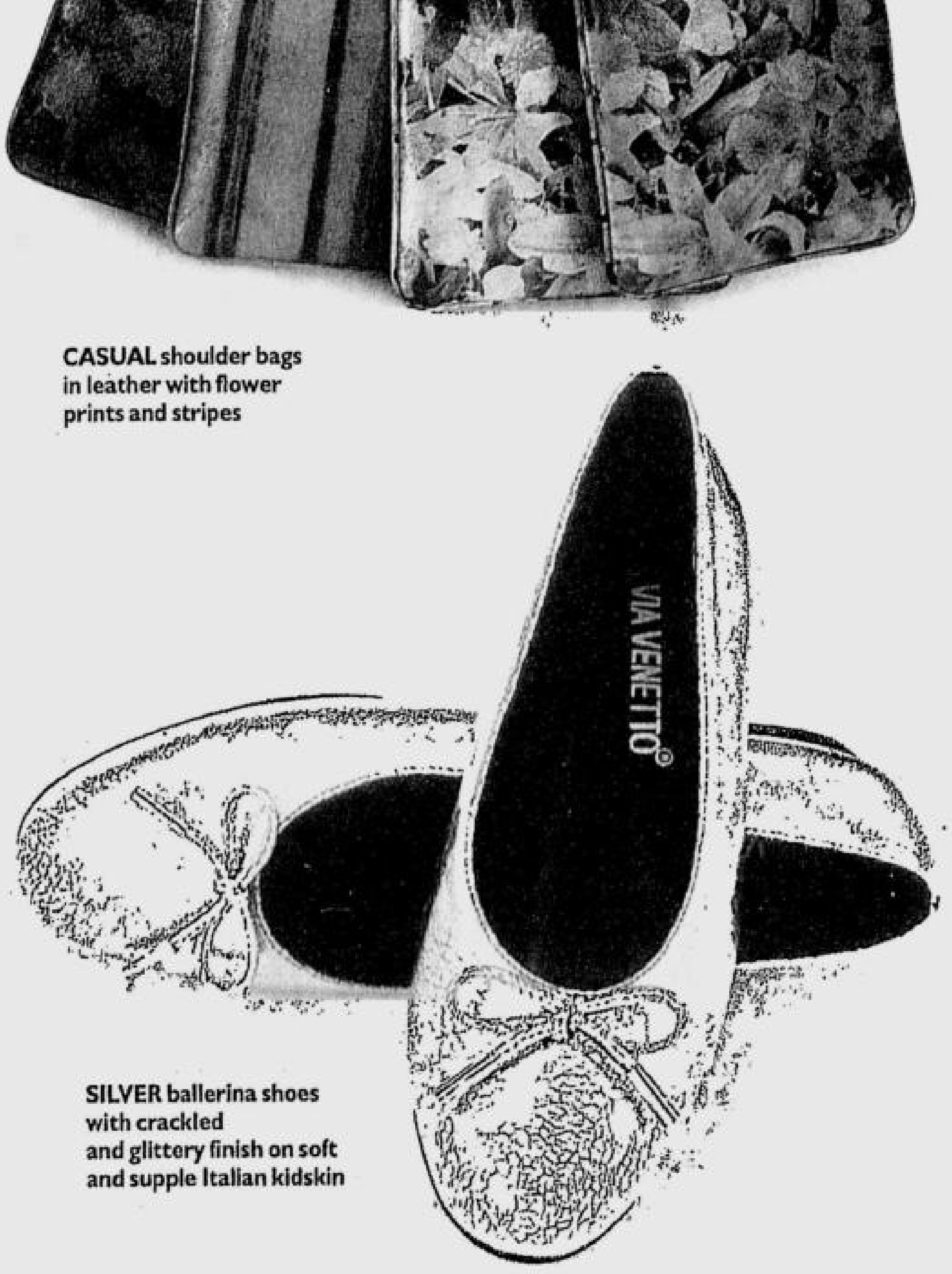
These and more new designs are now showcased in all Via Venetto stores nationwide.

Via Venetto is located at Alabang Town Center New Wing, Alabang Muntinlupa; Glorietta 1, Ayala Center Makati; SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City; SM City Annex North Edsa, QC; SM City Cebu, Reclammation Area, Cebu City.

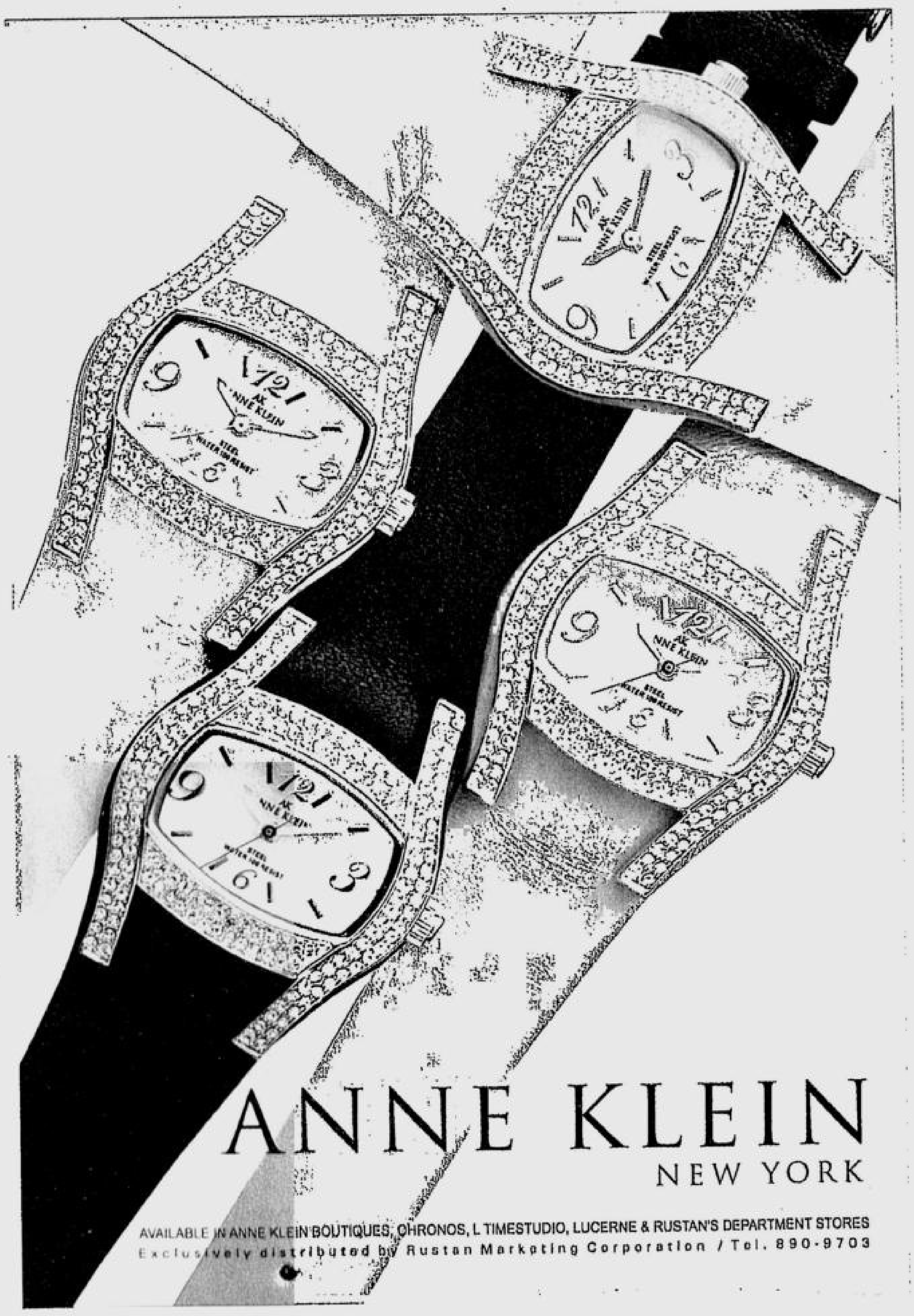
PINK satchel in embossed Italian crocodile skin



CASUAL shoulder bags in leather with flower prints and stripes



SILVER ballerina shoes with crackled and glittery finish on soft and supple Italian kidskin



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LONG-SLEEVE striped sweater and gray pants, both from Kenneth Cole

JUST four days to go before my big Valentine date and I still don't know what to give him! Gadget? Nah, too expensive! Boxers? Nah, too suggestive! Better a Bally black leather wallet or a Lexon clock from MakeRoom for his room. Tie? Hmmm... That seems a good idea. Elegant, useful, and stylish. And if I give him a Ferragamo tie, maybe tying the knot will cross his mind.

BASS T-shirt, Diesel denim pants, Bass bag. Choices of gifts for Mikee: Bally wallet, Salvatore Ferragamo tie, Lexon clock from MakeRoom

Shopping for romance

What do single women think about when Valentine's Day is just around the corner? And what do they do? They fidget, they shop, they fidget some more, they make themselves pretty, they fidget so much more. Until the eventful day comes . . . and goes

**cK Underwear ta
Diesel denim pant
Other choices of c
to wear: Anne Kle
sleeveless fuchsia
Anne Klein brown
and DKNY sequir
and olive-green sh**

JESSICA top, A/X jacket and Tutto Moda necklace. On her face: Smashbox lip gloss and blush, Sue Devitt eye shadow. For her hair: Matthew James styling and setting mist

VALENTINE'S Eve! Oh, why do I have butterflies in my tummy?

Time for more life-and-death decisions. Shall I wear my hair up or down? Immaculately coiffed? Or should I go for that nonchalant-and-sexily-tousled-by-a-light-breeze-with-errant-strand-with-some-help-from-Matthew-James-styling-and-setting-mist-seductively-leading-to-my-luscious-lips kind of look?

Speaking of lips, should I wear Smashbox red lipstick and use Sue Devitt eye shadow and look vavavoom or dainty Smashbox lip gloss for that fresh finish? Mascara, check! Blush, check! Powder, check!

ON BIANCA: Jessica sleeveless top, Jessica pants, DKNY bag and Tutto Moda necklace. On Mikee: DKNY top and cK Jeans

WAITING... waiting... waiting.

Is my hair okay? I've checked the mirror 50 times and I'm still worried! Waiting... waiting... waiting. Is my Jessica top too sexy?

Waiting... waiting... waiting. He's here! Ohmygoshohmygoshohmygosh!

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THE HUNT is over, the gift is set. I'm going to the mall in my casual Lacoste shirt with jeans and my fave shopping MakeRoom bag to buy him a gift. Oh my… that Charriol Flower Collection watch is so nice! Perfect for my dainty dress. And that Charriol Escapade bag is simply to-die-for. Earth to shoppaholic… You came here to shop for him, not you, remember? Right, right, him not me. But, I wonder what he'll get me. He better get me something nice!

RED Lacoste T-shirt, Diesel denim pants, MakeRoom bag. Choices of gifts: Charriol Escapade bag, Charriol Crazy In Love jewelry and Flower Collection watch

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO, KENNETH COLE, DKNY,
CHARRIOL, BALLY, SPRINGFIELD, JESSICA, ANNE KLEIN,
MARLBORO CLASSICS, CK UNDERWEAR, A/X, LUSH,
TUTTO MODA, MAKEROOM, BASS, DIESEL,
LACOSTE AND BEAUTY BAR
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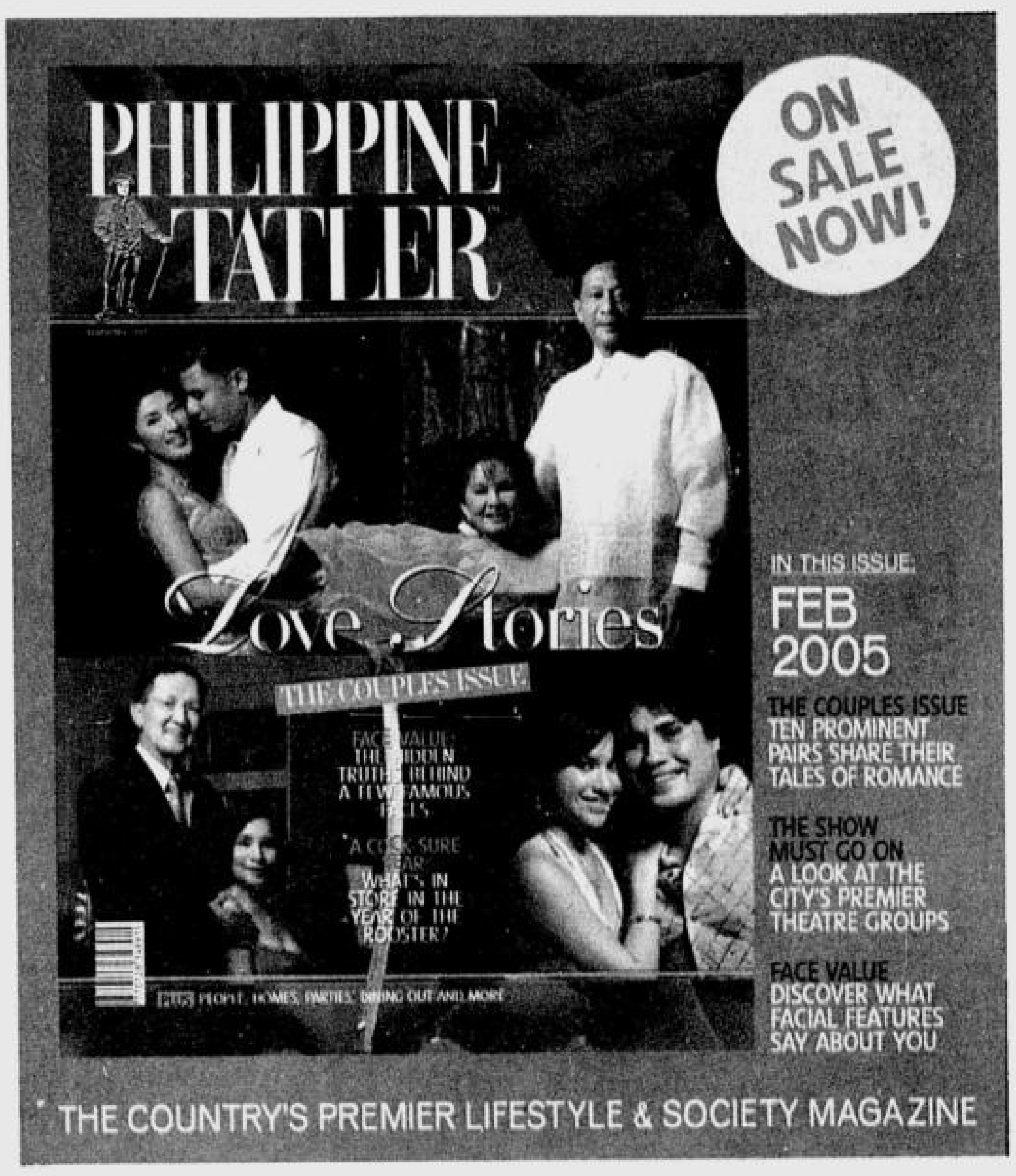
STYLING: ROSARIO HERRERA OF STYLE LAB
MAKEUP: ERIC MANINGAT OF STUDIO 546

**nk top,
s.
lothes
in
top,
slacks,
ed top
kirt**

WHAT do I wear? Conservative or cutting edge Anne Klein fuchsia sleeveless top and slacks? Sexy or sweet DKNY tan sequined top paired with skirt? Then again, I could also go for the playful look… cK tank top matched with Diesel jeans … choice pieces of jewelry for that upscale accent… What to wear? Need to go to the mall for some retail therapy!


PHILIPPINE TATLER
ON SALE NOW!
Love Stories
THE COUPLES ISSUE
IN THIS ISSUE:
FEB 2005
THE COUPLES ISSUE TEN PROMINENT PAIRS SHARE THEIR TALES OF ROMANCE
THE SHOW MUST GO ON A LOOK AT THE CITY'S PREMIER THEATRE GROUPS
FACE VALUE DISCOVER WHAT FACIAL FEATURES SAY ABOUT YOU
THE COUNTRY'S PREMIER LIFESTYLE & SOCIETY MAGAZINE

PERFECT! That's all I can say! He gives me the most beautiful gift.. a Charriol Crazy In Love necklace and my favorite Lush massage bars. And he is gorgeous in his Marlboro Classics shirt and polo top with Springfield blazer and Kenneth Cole pants. I just can't stop staring at him!

I hope he calls me after this. If it's been so perfect, he should call. He likes me, he likes me not, he likes me, he likes me not, he likes me!

ON BIANCA: DKNY dress, Charriol necklace, Bally purse. On Mikee: Marlboro Classics shirt, Marlboro Classics polo, Springfield blazer, Kenneth Cole pants

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Valentine Concerts

brought to you by the Star Group of Malls

featuring
CHERRY LOU
HAJJI ALEJANDRO
KITCHIE NADAL
LUKE MEJARES
PINKY AMADOR

**HAJJI ALEJANDRO
CHERRY LOU**
February 13, 2005
8:00 P.M.
Starmall EDSA
2/L Cuba Libre

For ticket inquiries, please call 718.1886.

**LUKE MEJARES
KITCHIE NADAL**
February 13, 2005
8:00 P.M.
Metropolis Star Alabang
4/L Trade Hall

For ticket inquiries, please call 850.3845.

**HAJJI ALEJANDRO
PINKY AMADOR**
February 14, 2005
8:00 P.M.
Starmall Las Piñas
2/L Activity Hub

For ticket inquiries, please call 872.5249.

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HAVE a chic Valentine's date with Bulgari's Tondo Shake jewelry collection. Tondo Shake pendants in yellow-gold and white-gold variations with rows of semiprecious stones ranging from blue topaz, amethyst, citrine, rhodolite and peridot

Bright and vivid for heartfelt season

BULGARI paints the town red with its romantic collection of Tondo Shake jewelry for Valentine. With bright, vivid and retro-inspired semiprecious stones, the collection features a heart in the center. The pendants, along with the matching earrings and rings in white and yellow gold variations, are sensual and bold and have attractive colors. The stones range from raspberry rhodolites to lime green peridot, violet amethyst, sky-blue topaz and orange-yellow cetrin encased in gold.

The Tondo Shake collection is available at Bulgari stores at 6750 Ayala Avenue and Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

TONDO Shake pendant in yellow gold with delicate adjustable chain and semiprecious stone accents rotating around the pendant in blue topaz, amethyst, citrine, rhodolite and peridot

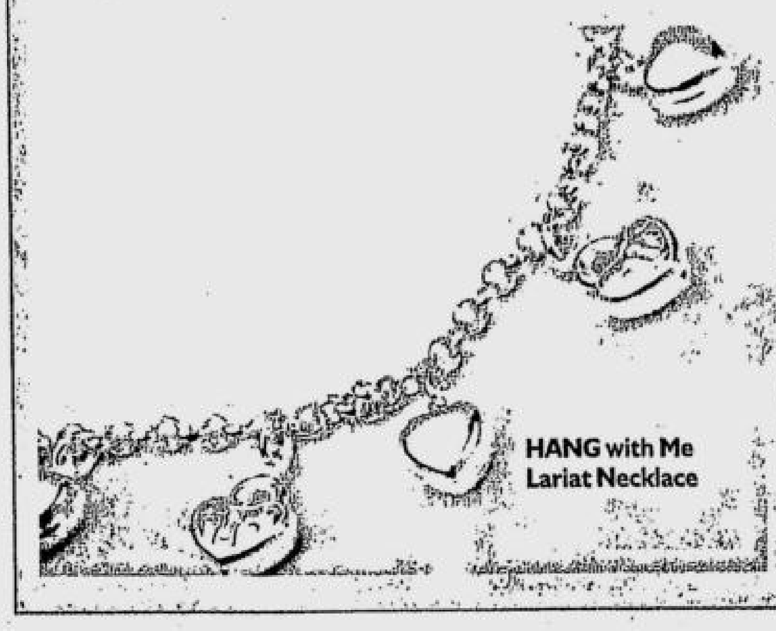
TONDO Shake rings in a three-row semiprecious stones with heart-shaped accent in the center. The semiprecious stones are blue topaz, amethyst, rhodolite, citrine and peridot.

Italian-designed stunners

THIS season of love, express your affection with Simply Silver's Hearts collection. Crafted in 92.5-percent sterling silver, these are Italian-designed silver jewelry.

For the month of February, an P800 purchase of Simply Silver jewelry gives you the chance to win an overnight stay for two with breakfast at the Manila Pavilion.

Simply Silver is located at Robinsons Festival Mall. Call 6330345.



HANG with Me Lariat Necklace

SIMPLY Silver's Heart on Center Bracelet

Sparkling odes to love

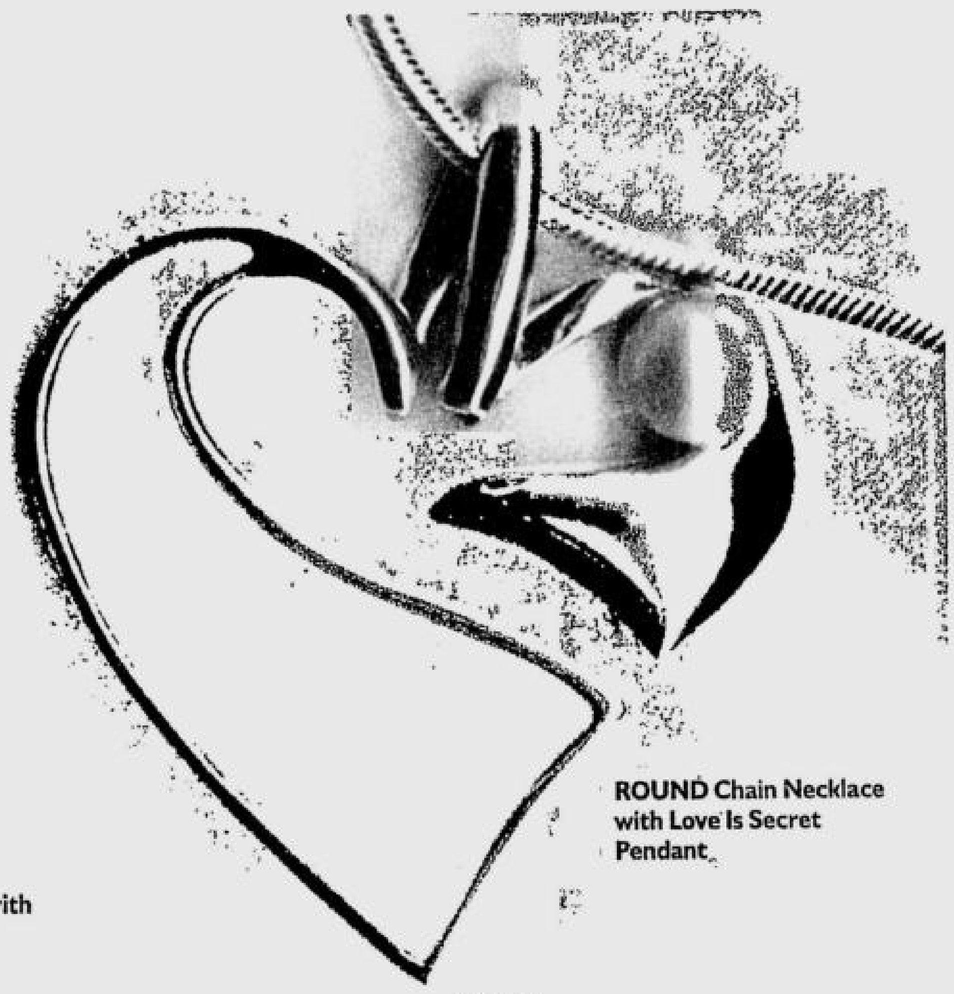
FOR VALENTINE'S Day, Michelis has come up with a new collection of jewelry to celebrate love.

The Devotion collection has various pieces to symbolize the various kinds of love, such as the First Crush—a quaint pendant featuring a tiny heart and a teddy bear charm.

Michelis has also re-launched the Philosophies of Love Collection with pieces such as Love is Secret, Love will Find a Way and Love is Passion. The collection highlights the marriage of mother-of-pearl, freshwater pearls and sterling silver in each piece.

The Hearts collection, meanwhile, presents different combinations of gemstones, freshwater pearls and sterling silver.

To view these Valentine collections, visit a Michelis branch near you: The Jewelry, Greenhills Shopping Center; Greenbelt 1; Independent Lifestyles at the Power Plant Mall; the Makati Shangri-La Hotel; the Manila Mandarin Oriental Hotel; Rustan's Alabang Town Center and Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza. Call 7237510.



ROUND Chain Necklace with Love Is Secret Pendant

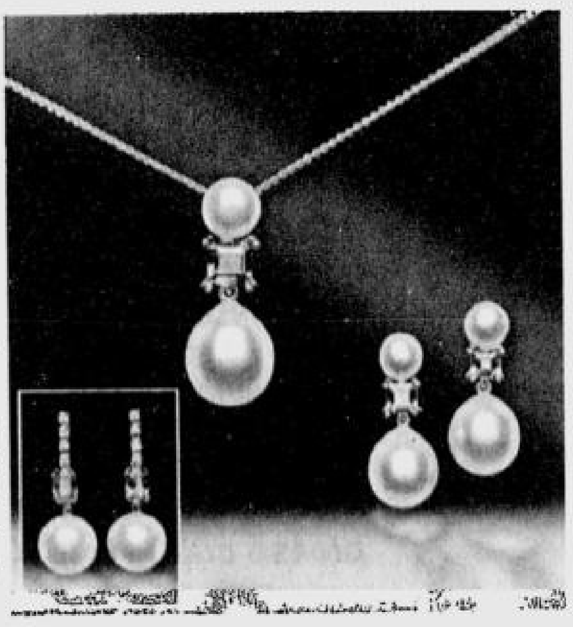
FINE Chain Necklace with First Crush Pendant

FIRST Love Bracelet

Romance in rainbow colors

FEEL special this Valentine's with Jewelmer's colored stone earrings and pendants—a medley of tourmalines, citrines, amethysts and peridots set with precious South Sea pearls in 18k white or yellow gold.

Call 8925609/8404538, fax 8189778, e-mail retail@jewelmer.com or view the collection at Jewelmer stores in Glorietta 4, Megamall, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu.



A fair at the mall

POWER Plant Mall welcomes Valentine's Day this year with a Valentine fair, six days and six nights love-filled activities at Rockwell Center.

With "All Is Fair in Love" on Feb. 14-20, the entire North Court of Power Plant Mall will be filled with merchants offering flowers and chocolates for couples.

On the day of hearts itself, also at the North Court, lounge pianist Rio Villena-Osorio will serenade shoppers with her renditions of classic love songs and sentimental tunes.

On Feb. 12-13, couples and families can enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides as Rockwell brings in a favorite New York Central Park attraction.

Visit Rockwell and make Valentine's Day a memorable one either for your date or your family.

Robinsons Supermarket **Robinsons SUPERCENTER** **big R Supercenter**

WOW! Fresh for less

Red Hot Sale

February 11 - 24, 2005

FRESH PICK OF THE WEEK

WASHINGTON RED APPLES SIZE: # 113

P18/piece

SUPERLIVER Frozen Chicken P79.50 kg

FIL-FAVORITO Special Halo-Halo 1/2gal P170.50 each

WATERMELON Sugarbaby P24/kg

GROUND PORK P99/kg

KRAFT Philadelphia Plain 226g P87.75 each

NATIVE TOMATO P38/kg

Bibbo Hotdog (Jumbo) 4.5kg P133.95 pack

MARBY Cheese Bread 250g P25/pack

TILAPIA Black P70/kg

NESCAFE CLASSIC
100g
(2 packs) w/
1 thermal mug
FREE

P105.10 pack

HOT BUY

BUY 1 PACK TANGO CHOCOLATE
(Milk with Cookies/
Hazel Nut with Cookies/
Almond with Cookies/
Fruit & Nut with Cookies)
200g

P62.50 each

GET 1
Tango Chocolate 50g
of the same variant
FREE

P43.75 CLOSE-UP Red Hot 100ml

P63.75 CLOSE-UP Red Hot 150ml

P199 each FERRERO ROCHER Heart T8 100g

P185 each CARLO ROSSI California Red 750ml

P73.50 each REJOICE Rich 200ml

P16.50 each GENTLE Maxi Cotton Non-Wing 8's

P200 each WILD VINES Blackberry Merlot 750ml

P65 each HERSHEY'S KISSES Creamy Milk Chocolate w/ Almonds 120g

P273 each TOBLERONE One by One 5 Varieties 330g

P65 each HERSHEY'S KISSES Classic Milk Chocolate w/ Almonds 120g

P185 each DRYPERS Wee-Wee Dry Large 24's

P26.50 each AXION Kalamansi 190ml

P84.45 each LADY'S CHOICE Sandwich Spread 470ml

P473.75 each GAIN PLUS w/ EYE-Q 900g

P427 each FERRERO ROCHER T24 300g

P101.75 each LIPTON Ice Tea Honeymansi 1kg

P17.75 each GENTLE Maxi Cotton w/ Wings 8's

P73.50 each REJOICE Reviving 200ml

P180 each TOBLERONE One by One 5 Varieties 200g

P22.90 each HERSHEY'S S'mores Bar 46g

P673.75 each PEDIA SURE Vanilla 900g

P287 each TOBLERONE Milk (6's) 100g

P26.50 each AXION w/ Baking Soda 190ml

P173 each DRYPERS Wee-Wee Dry XL 20's

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT # 0609 SERIES OF 2005

KEY to a Million RAFFLE PROMO
November 15, 2004-February 15, 2005

Over P1,000,000 worth of cash and other prizes at stake in the Grand Draw!

Watch out for the Treasure Hunt Game on March 4, 2005 at Robinsons Galleria fountain area
See flyers for details

Per DTI Permit # 2735 Series of 2004

WOW! Low, low prices

Hurry! Catch these big discounts and special promos until supplies last!

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET

ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Tutuban Center
- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Robinsons Angeles, Pampanga
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkley Square, Tandang Sora

ROBINSONS SUPERCENTER
- Robinsons Place Pioneer, Mandaluyong

BIG R SUPERCENTER
ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Nepo Mall Dagupan

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FREE!
WIN!
WIN!

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₱3,590 NA LANG!

- comes with an X-treme Memory SIM
- Taglish Dictionary
- Built-in Flashlight
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EASY LANG MAGKA-PREMYO SA PHONEKIT NA 'TO. MAY LIBRE KA NANG NOKIA TUMBLER AT TOWEL, MAY CHANCE KA PANG MANALO NG NOKIA 3220 O MAGING MILYONARYO!

TO GET YOUR INSTANT PRIZE:

1. Buy a Globe Prepaid Nokia 1100 phonekit for only ₱3,590 at any Globe Telecom Business Center or authorized dealer.
2. Get your instant gifts: a Nokia water tumbler and face towel!

TO JOIN THE RAFFLE:

3. Register for FREE by texting in N1100/Name/Age/Address/Area of purchase to 2244 using your Nokia 1100 with the corresponding Globe Prepaid SIM card. (ex. N1100/Anna Santos/20/5 Sampaguita St., Makati/Greenhills)
4. Register on or before February 17, 2005 to include your entry in the electronic raffle draws. Preliminary draws will be on February 4 and 11, 2005 and the grand raffle draw will be on February 18, 2005.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER:	**₱1 Million**
2 WINNERS:	₱250,000
26 WINNERS	₱20,000
40 WINNERS	Nokia 3220 Cellphones

Promo duration: Jan. 26 to Feb. 17, 2005

KAYA BILI NA, RELAX AT DARATING ANG SWERTE MO!

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0236, Series of 2005.

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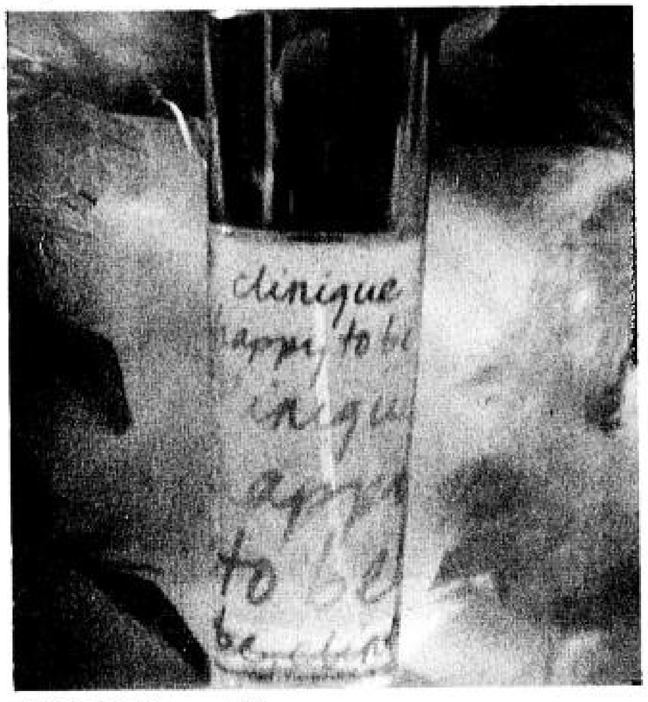
ARMANI Mania Pour Femme



CLINIQUE Happy to Be

Shopping list for hearts

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

IMAGINE I am walking with you when you shop for a gift for your significant other. Flowers for women, of course, are traditional, and their classic partner is chocolate. But with nearly everyone so diet-conscious, she may not appreciate the pair unless she's a chocoholic. So you may pair flowers with: a) fragrances, b) bath products, c) jewelry (wow!), etc. Don't worry, guys, I won't mention any jewelry suggestions.

For him: He deserves a gift, too! My favorite men's fragrances smell fresh but last a long time. They're perfect for our weather and no Filipino male who has received them has ever complained. My choices: Calvin Klein Crave, Allyssa Ashley Musk for men, Issey Miyake Blue Pour Homme, Jean Paul Gaultier Le Male, Bulgari Classic and Blv Notte.

Unisex: These were really created for men but the women test market fell in love with them. Top choices: Thiery Mugler's Mugler Cologne, Inno Sotto's Deauville and Huit, L'Occitane Green Tea, Bulgari Au The Blanc (white tea) and my personal concoction of The Body Shop's Olive Oil shower gel and oil spray topped with

SHOPPING/ D4

SPORTS Central
VALENTINE TREATS
February 11 - 14
FREE DINNER FOR TWO
at KAMAYAN SIZZLE & GRILL
with a minimum P5,000 single receipt purchase

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0657, Series of 2005

3rd Level SM City Manila • 2nd Level SM Supercenter Sucat • Upper Ground Floor SM City Sta. Mesa
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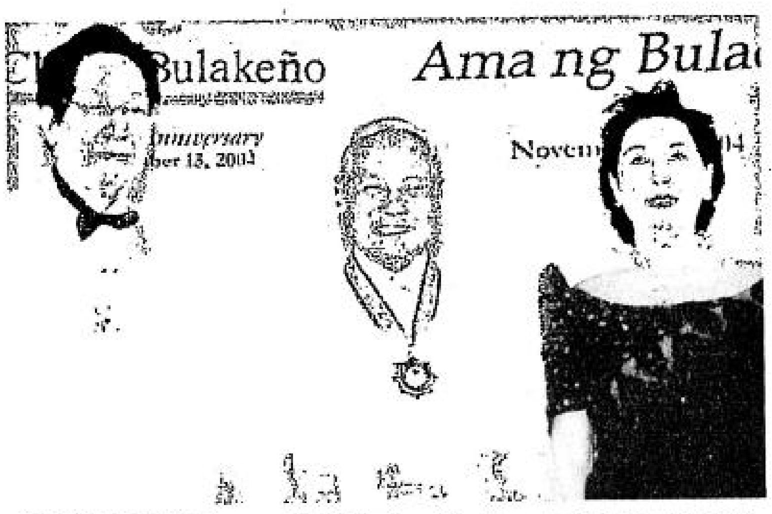
MEGA popular couple: hostess with the mostest Consul to Guatemala Mellie and husband, business magnate Louie Ablaza

PAST president Tess Castro with escort John Gaddi

FORMER Sen. Nikki Coseteng and Jaime Laya ready for the *rigodon de honor*

WHEN presidents dance: Popular past president Berna Lomotan and escort, another past president, Sonny Tanchanco

Swell nights with Bulakeños and the consular corps



AMBASSADOR Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr., Ama ng Bulacan honoree, with Club Bulakeño founder Gene Reyes and co-founder Lydia Reyes

ELEGANT Kathy Mabanta Zita, Southern gentleman Jun Lopez, Menchu Tantoco Lopez, Edsa Shangri-La's Tom Zita, Marilou Tantoco Pineda and Eddie Pineda

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare SYSTEM

YES, *palanggas*, it's been 16 years since the founding of Club Bulakeño by the well-respected civil engineer and contractor, **Gene Reyes**, and his indefatigable wife, **Lydia**.

The Club has since become a *très* prominent socio-civic organization whose primary mission and tradition is to provide scholarship grants to indigent yet deserving students of Bulacan; donate infant incubators to the Bulacan Provincial Hospital; and donate books to the Malolos Elementary School, plus other deserving organizations, *palanggas*.

Club Bulakeño's officers, members and advisers have reaffirmed their commitment to the community. At the ballroom foyer, Bulacan's grand ladies and magnificent gentlemen welcomed the 800 or so invitees with that typical friendly Bulacan smile.

Après dinner, the group's past president, **Tess Castro**, did a superb invocation in lyrical Bulacan Tagalog, while **Menggie Cobarrubias** emceed the ceremony in excellent, flawless Filipino and called on classical diva, **Irma Ponce Enrile Potenciano**, to lead the National Anthem. Then past president, popular civic-oriented socialite **Berna Lomotan**, with good-looking **John Gaddi**, in lieu of past president **Sonny Tanchanco**, gave the welcome remarks, *palanggas*.

This year, the unanimous choice for the prestigious "Ama ng Bulacan" was none other than Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.**, who had concurrently served as Philippine envoy to the Holy See and to the Sovereign Military Order of Saint John in Rhodes, Malta, from 1983-1986. It was he who gave the Philippines prominence in world retail business through his chairmanship of the famille-owned Rustan's retail conglomerate.

Ambassador Tantoco Sr.'s childhood pal of eight decades, **Jose "Pepe" Lomotan**, has this to say about him: "He's loyal to his place of origin, Bulacan, truly charitable, and definitely a champion of the poor."

The coronation ceremonies begun with the entrance of reigning muse, eye-catching beauty **Jonina Joy Tanchanco**, the only daughter of Sonny T., in a **Rajo Laurel** gown.

The must-do *rigodon de honor* had the elegant Bulakeñas looking wow in either red or bravura black ternos, while the hotshot Bulakeños were in either chic white or black dinner jackets, reminiscent of the Commonwealth era.

The finale was the elegant waltz danced to the music of Dalagang Pilipina, by the pillars of Club Bulakeño; **Lydia** and **Arnold Reyes**; Mayor **Bert Carating** and **Ofelia Trinidad**; Tess Castro and John Gaddi; **Ogie Villamar** and **Gigi Trinidad**; **Jaime Laya** and Sen. **Nikki Coseteng**; Secretary **Obet** and **Susan Pagdanganan**; **Louie** and **Mellie Ablaza**; and Sonny Tanchanco and Berna Lomotan.

"I could have danced all night," as the song goes, and dahlings, believe me, they did to the swinging sounds of **Gloria Gatmaitan** and her band.

It's crystal clear that a club like this and other high-profile clubs in the country have come a long way since the original club of clubs, the ultra-elegant Visayan club, the Kahirup Club, had their grand balls, participated by the creamiest of the cream in the leagues of sugar barons and baronesses and their heirs, *palanggas*.

Consular Ball

It was the night everyone gets all dolled up and excited in the international community. It was the Annual Consular Ball, which the Consular Corps of the Philippines was hosting for the 29th year. Planned a year in advance by the Ivorian Consul, businessman **Vicente J. Carlos**, the dean of the consular corps, and a hyperactive steering committee chaired by, Monaco Consul **Fortune A. Ledesma**, the affair turned out to be a tremendous record-breaking success, darlings.

Attendance was the biggest ever, with more than 600 chi-chi invitees swarming the grand Rizal Ballroom of the grandiose Makati Shangri-La, natch.

In his really brief remarks, Dean **Vicente Carlos** announced, "that the Consular Corps of the Philippines would be donating a substantial amount of the modest surplus from the sale of Consular Ball tickets, to the calamity victims of our less fortunate brethren."

The witty emcee was, oh yes, none other than my *palangga*, **Johnny Litton**, a regular mainstay of the balll for years.

Hot-hot namedroppables at Vicente Carlos's table were Sen. **Alfredo S. Lim**, brilliant Supreme Court Justice **Artemio "Art" V. Panganiban** with his adorable wife **Leni**, and Foreign Secretary **Alberto Romulo** with his lovely wife **Lovely** and daughter **Mons Romulo-Tantoco**.

The big-big comer of this glitzy affair was the tons of to-die-for prizes that were raffled off, like, airline tickets, week-long Mediterranean, Caribbean and Asian cruises, and free weekend packages at top Philippine resorts, plus loads of other wow prizes.

With Makati Shangri-La's gifted mega chefs, we got an exquisite six-course set menu, complemented by an overflow of excellent wines and liquor.

Then it was time to rock and roll with some of the hottest bands in the land. **Pinky Marquez**, **Bimbo Cerrudo** and the Onda Latina Band dished out non-stop dance music that brought the mob of chic personas shaking the dance floor way-way past Cinderella's bed time.

Hey, leave it to the Annual Consular Ball to let everyone literally have a ball!

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani and Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando, among the 800 guests of Club Bulakeño

SOUTHERN lady Nena Vargas and husband, heir to the throne Rico Tantoco

MAKATI"S first couple, radiantly eye-catching Dr. Elenita B. with husband, dynamic Mayor Jejomar Binay

PATRICK Jacinto with Nedy Tantoco, her father Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr., his granddaughter Catherine Tantoco Huang, DJ Lopez, and Anton Tantoco Huang, head of Stores Specialists, Inc.

US CONSUL General David and Sheila Donahue

INCOMING muse Jonina Joy Tanchanco is crowned by Sen. Manuel Villar and Imelda Marcos, while escort Edmond Lipana looks on.

JOHANNA Montero and husband, Chilean Ambassador Jorge Montero, with Costa Rica Consul general Fausto Preysler Jr.

TING and Annie Aylon with Estonia Consul General Dr. Juan N. Pena behind

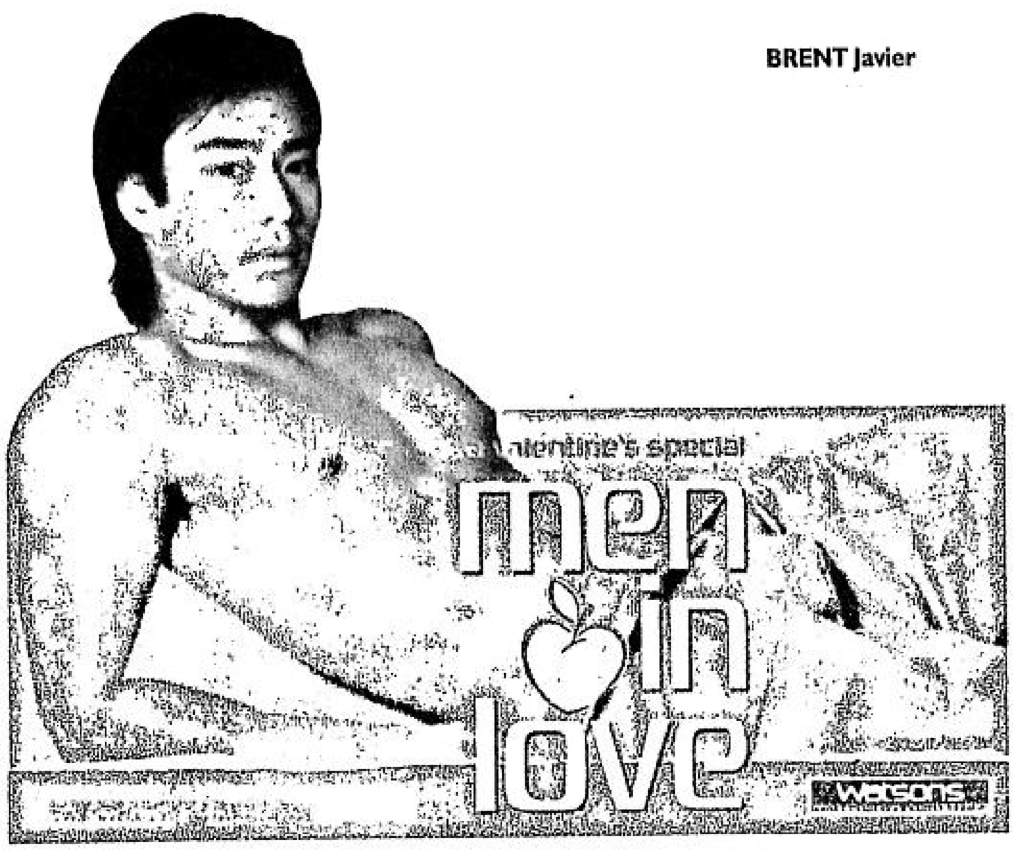
MME. STACEY and Christopher Stacey of the British embassy, with Consul Noreen Trota of Ireland

CONSUL of Monaco Fortune Aleta-Ledesmis recognized "for making the 29th Consular Ball the most outstanding, enjoyable and financially viable endeavor of the Corps on record," given by Consul Vince Carlos of Ivory Coast, the dean of the Consular Corps of the Philippines

29th
Annual B

DEAN Vince Carlos (right) receives a leadership award for outstanding year of service from immediate past dean Oscar de Venecia.

US Deputy Chief of Mission Joseph A. Mussomeli and wife Sharon



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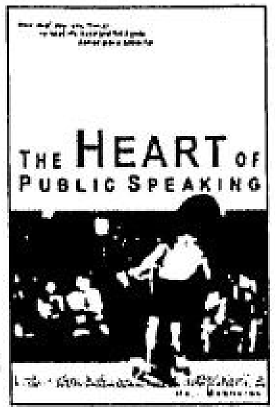

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Carol Carreon Smith; Former CEO, Bayantrade, Philippines

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DTM Michael Angelo Chua, District Gov.; Phil Toastmasters

Pamper your man this month

WATSONS, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., unveiled recently its Valentine campaign "Men in Love" (MIL).

The "Men in Love," three sexy hunks—models Mikee Carrion, Mickey de Leon and Brent Javier—now represent the personal care store. They are meant to encourage women to pamper their men and make them feel extra special in this season of hearts.

MIL is a first for Watsons because it employs non-traditional, non-conservative marketing and advertising. Through MIL Watsons give women a chance to pamper their men with a wide range of products that the store carries, says Andrew Denby, Watsons' regional store development director.

Other activities set for Valentines are discounts and special offers to Globe subscribers who present "Men in Love" mobile messages.

The MIL models will also visit various SM malls in Metro Manila this month for the Fragrance Festival. Aside from meeting and greeting customers, they will give scent samples of popular perfumes and designer fragrances like Armani, CK and Romance by Ralph Lauren.

Watsons will also have off-site booths that will feature the MIL in a flower/fantasy land setting.

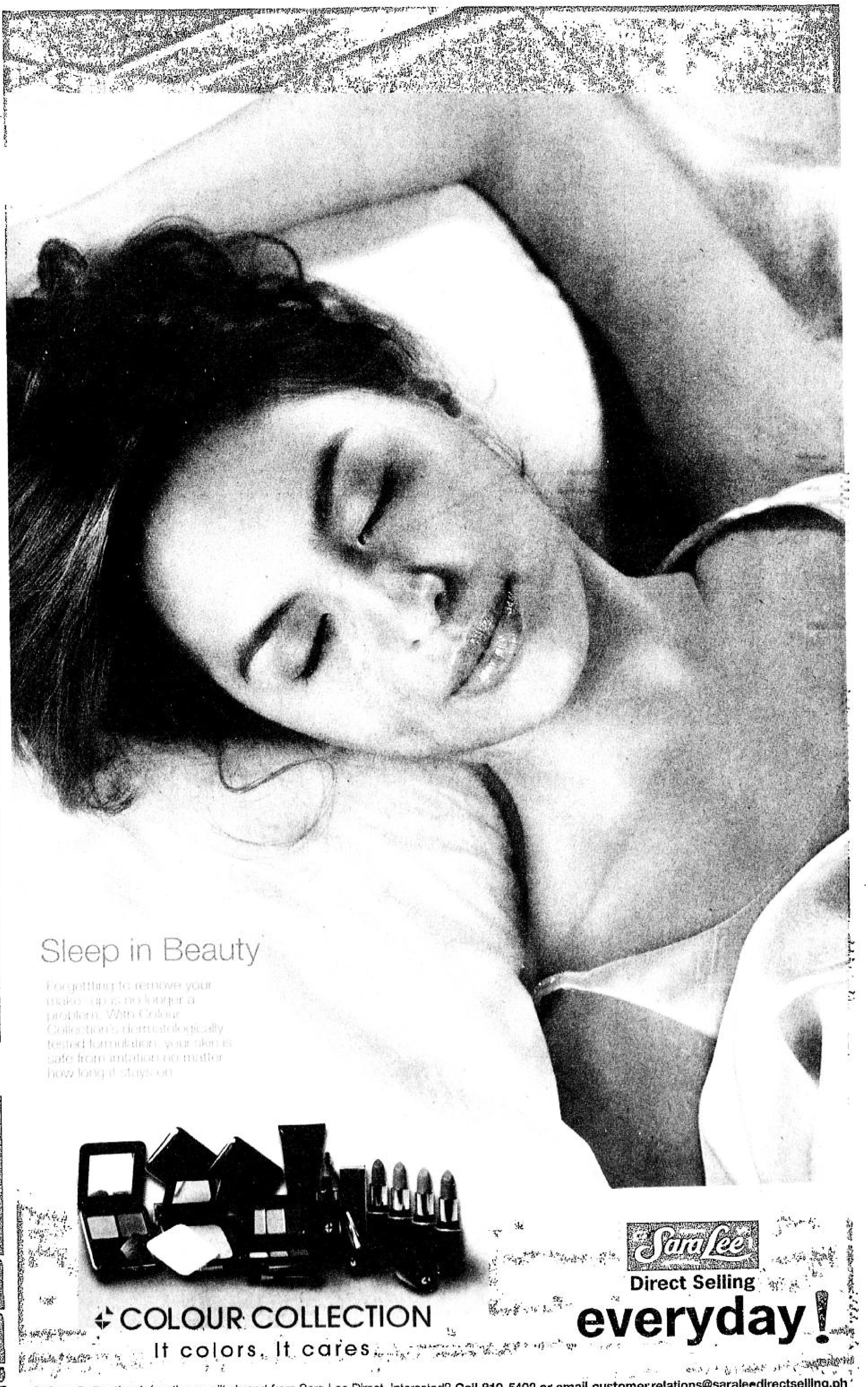
This month, visit Watsons and see how you can make the month special for the hunk in your life with "Men in Love."

a valentine's special
men in love

MICKEY de Leon

a valentine's special
men in love

MIKEE Carrion



Sleep in Beauty

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Shopping list for hearts

From page D1

their lemon tea fragrance smells fresh and sexy for both.

Women: There are so many new ones, but I will recommend my classic favorites as well. Shiseido's Energizing, Clinique's Happy (burst of citrus) and newest addition Happy to Be (pears with cocoa butter), Armani Sensi (vanilla, white flowers, amber, musk) and Armani Mania, Avon Today (citrus floral), Crabtree and Evelyn's Rosewater (my preference) or Evelyn Rose collection, Lancome's Miracle So Magic, which I prefer more than the classic as it is a lighter floral musk version of Miracle.

Bath products

There is no bigger turn-on to one's sense of touch than soft smooth skin all over and you would be glad to know my recommendations are very affordable. The Body Shop's Ylang Ylang body collection is labeled "sensual" because it has been proven that ylang ylang is a potent aphrodisiac for women. Thrown in the mix is patchouli, a potent aphrodisiac for men. It has a bath essence, body cream and bath oil. For those who need to relax after a stressful work, J&J has a line called Softwash and Soft Lotion, calming with my favorite lavender and chamomile scent incorporated. If I were you I would toss in the calming powder as well. For those who prefer a milky scent go for the plain Softwash and Soft Lotion with 24-hour moisture.

For men: Crabtree & Evelyn's Cayman Winds shower gel and toning spray will make him feel fresh, clean and alive. The scent is something I would describe as aquatic.

For yourself: Ultimate aphrodisiac

Remember that Valentine's will fall on a Monday this year during which you will go through harassing traffic and a hectic workday. If that doesn't dampen your mood and drain all stamina you must be Superman or Wonder Woman.

Health Express has just the thing to perfect your evening—Power V P360/30 tablets! It is an herbal concoction created to stimulate both men and women. It increases libido, stamina and energy. The dosage is two tablets 90 minutes to two hours before your romantic interlude. The active ingredients are Yohimbe, Ginseng and Niacin. Please read the back of the label thoroughly or consult your doctor to ask if certain ingredients are dangerous for you. So far there have been no complaints among my friends who have tried them, but a few say they get either very thirsty, flushed or palpitations.

Check out their website at www.healthexpressph.com to find out more as it is their focus of the month. Click on "contact us" if you want to know the branch nearest you and the telephone number.

CRABTREE & Evelyn Rosewater

CRAVE by Calvin Klein

LIFESTYLE

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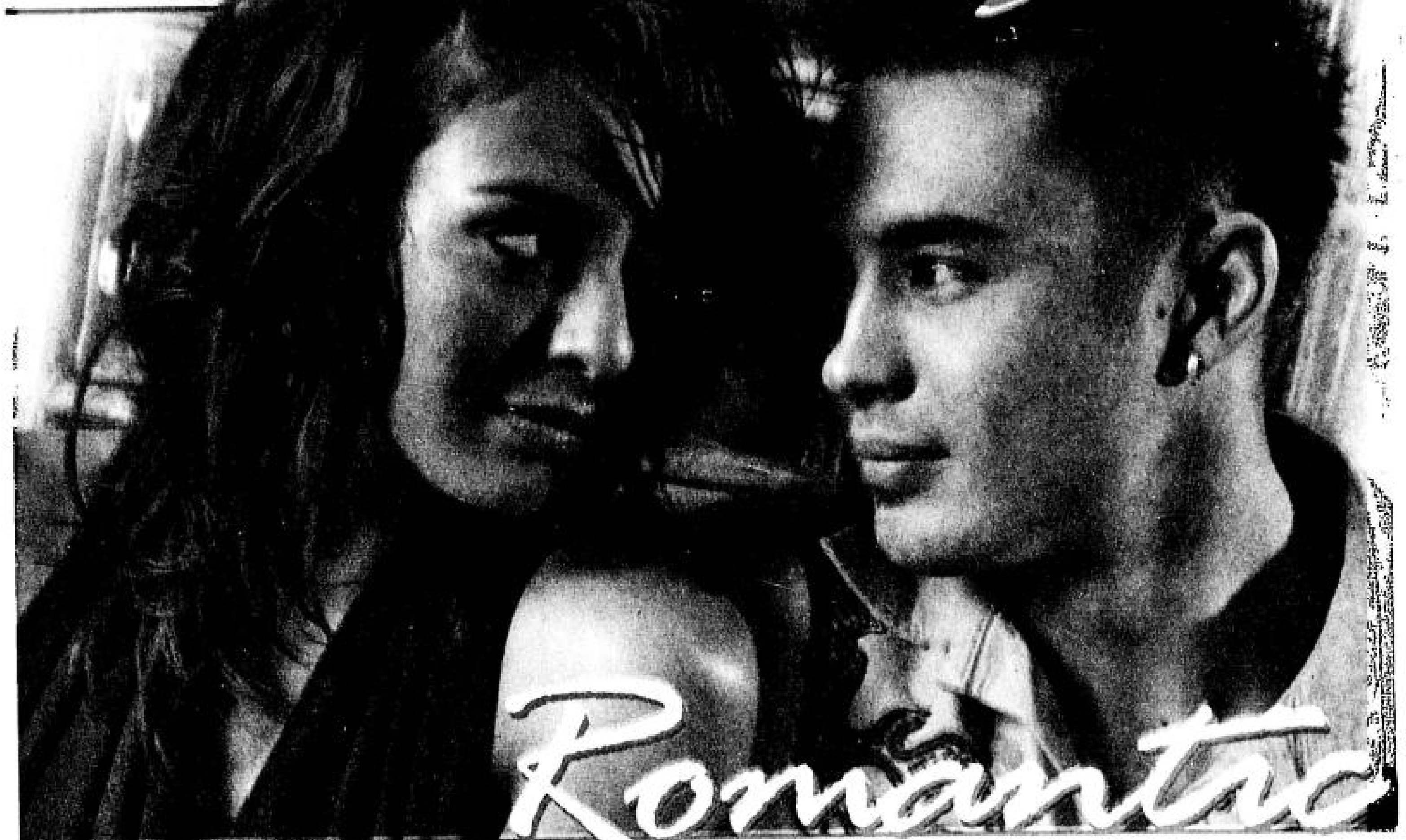
The look of love for her is side-swept fringe or sexy curls with soft layers, the better to flirt with, and for him, styled a bit funky but fuss-free



THE LOOK OF LOVE: Brad Turvey and G Tongi wearing out-of-the-ordinary romantic looks styled by Kenti Tam and his creative team

PHOTOS: WESLEY VILLARICA

Romantic but cutting-edge

THE MANE MAN: Kenti Tam of Salon de Ken with his tools—Bed Head products

THIS year, the look of love takes a more passionate spin with unfinished curls and unconventional styling.

Salon de Ken's Vidal Sassoon London-trained Kenti Tam, stylist to celebrities KC Concepcion and Cesar Montano, creates 'dos for two of the country's stunners: G Tongi and Brad Turvey.

Slightly swirled locks frame Tongi's engaging features. Tam ensures that the finish allows for freedom of movement.

"I love the glamour and sensuality of the look. The curls add mystery. And because it's not rigid or stiff, hair is allowed to bounce and flyaway. I think those make for a naturally playful aura," says Tongi.

To intensify her look, Tam used a side-swept fringe as a flirting tool and blended textures: sexy curls with soft layers. He sets Tongi's mane, then creates definition using Bed Head Creative Genius. He then applies Bed Head Girl Toys for glow, and caps it with a few sprays of Bed Head Maxxed Out.

"Dry, kinky or frizzy hair is a big turn-off and probably the most common of hair problems. Periodically treat hair to rejuvenate and enliven it with peppermint treatment Bed Head Treat Me Right," advises Tam.

Turvey is a casual dress-down kind of guy, which means his hair must be fuss-free but always healthy and groomed. He uses Bed Head Manipulator Shampoo and Conditioner for daily hair care.

Tam applies Bed Head Hard To Get to Turvey's hair to separate it into clusters. Bed Head's Power Trip then seals the deal. For

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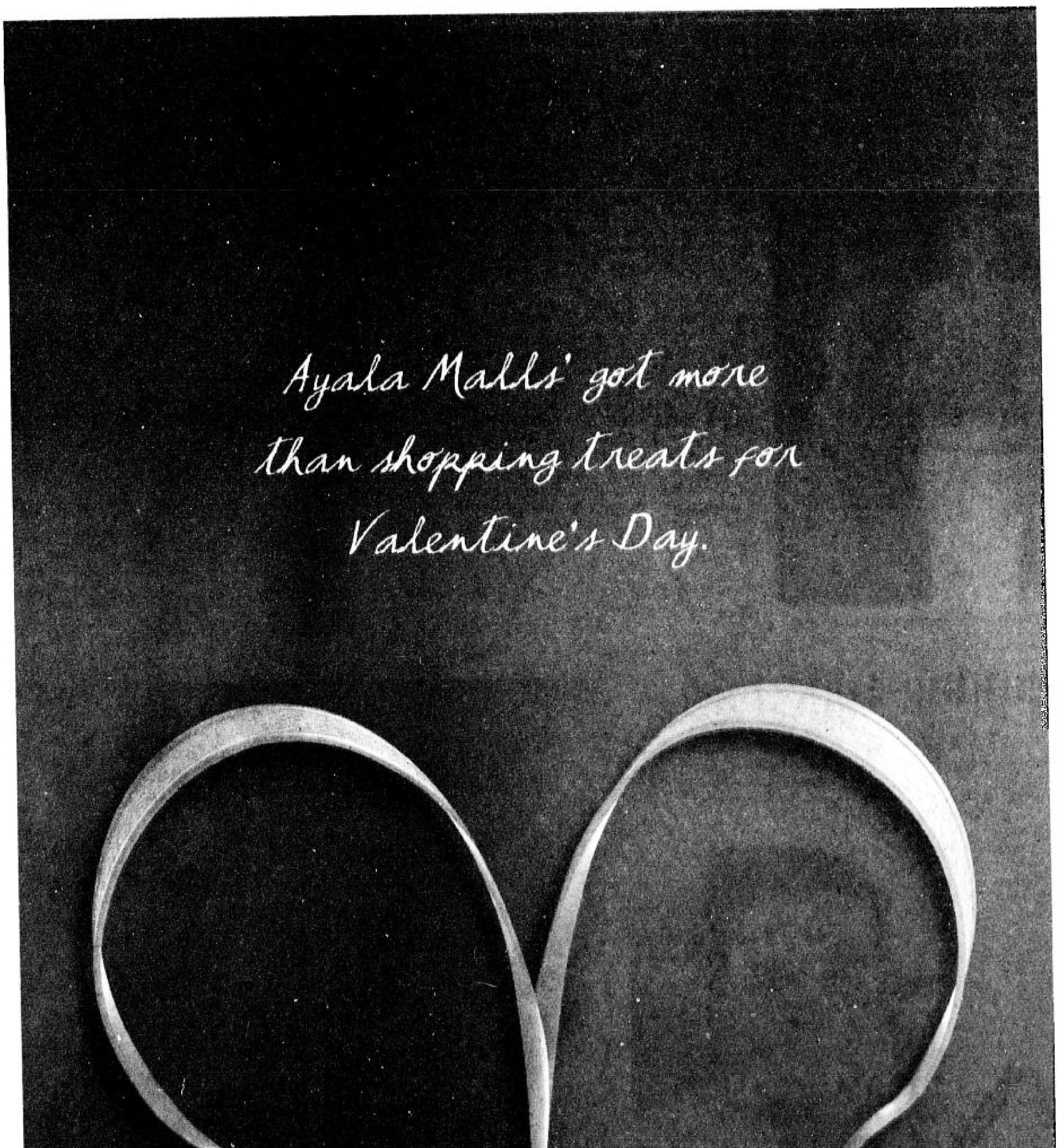

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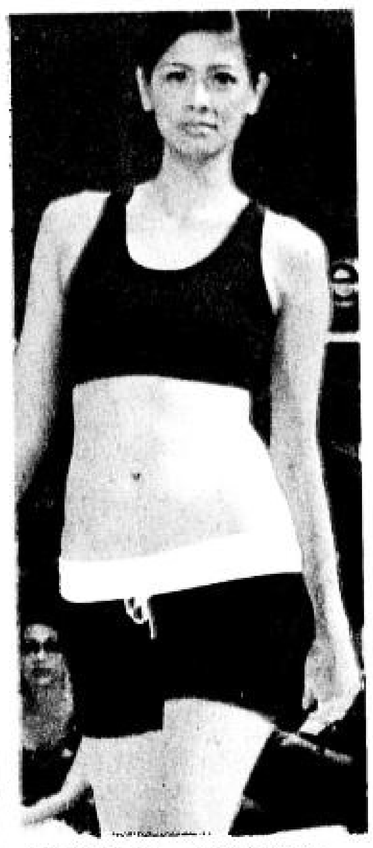

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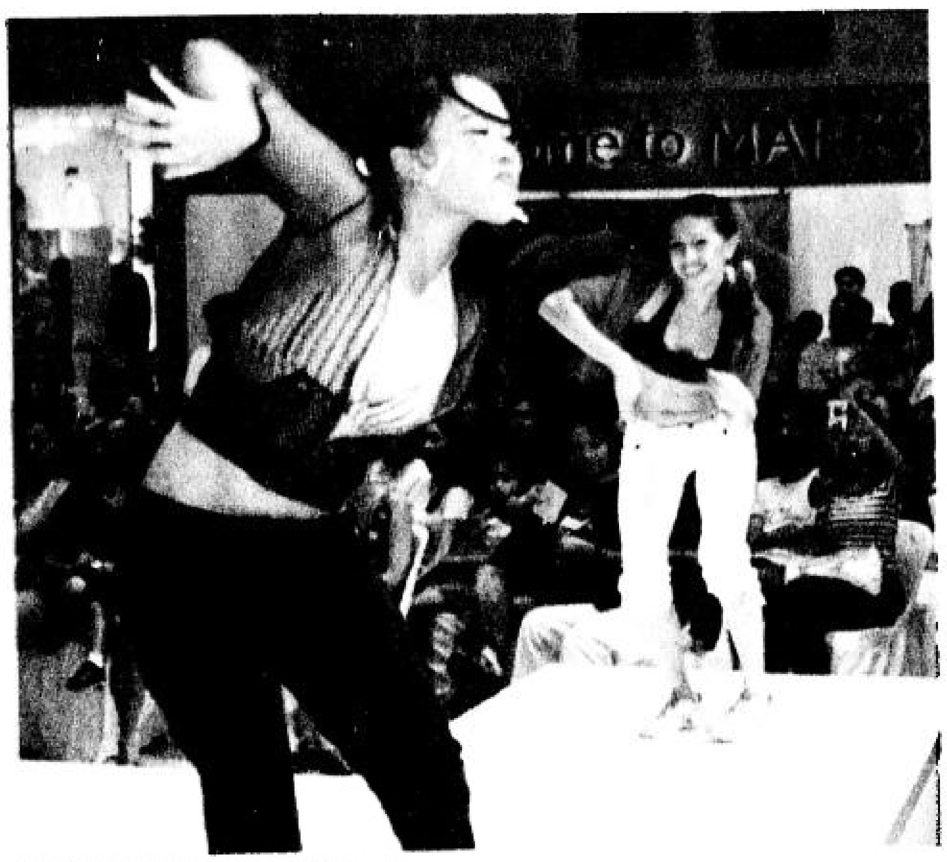
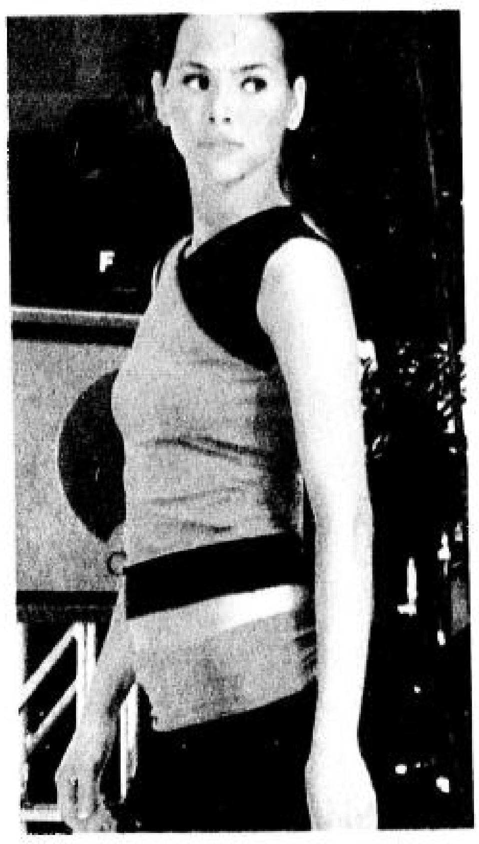


BELLYBUTTON-BARING dancers



FIT for summer

Say goodbye to your stretch marks

MINIMIZER launch features models in cropped attires.

A new Vaseline product takes care of women's most pesky concern

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

MODELS and dancers bared their tummies in a recent fashion show directed by Jackie Aquino at the Power Plant Mall, as Vaseline lotion formally launched the Mark Minimizer.

The newest variant in Vaseline's Skin Solutions line promises to minimize and reduce the appearance of unsightly stretch marks through its formulation that combines triple lipids, alpha lipids and lactic acid.

Vaseline has yet to launch the homegrown product outside the Philippines. The Mark Minimizer came about during the latter part of 2003 after Unilever did a research among young women, especially mothers, and found out that stretch marks are one of their chief concerns. It came in the heels of White and Clear, Vaseline's answer to Filipino women obsessed with fairer skin.

The multinational's research and development team lost no time working on a "solution," which resulted in an affordable product for the mass market. Part of the research includes having women test the products themselves. Results so far have reportedly been satisfactory.

PERFECT for belly dancers

"Not a few women were concerned about their stretch marks," says Jenny Infante, one of Unilever's brand managers. "Stretch marks inhibited them from wearing certain clothes and doing certain activities they used to engage in."

This concern, adds Infante, is far from imaginary. While stretch marks are normally associated with pregnancy, studies show that they manifest themselves on the skin every time a person dramatically gains and loses weight. Certain factors can make you more susceptible to stretch marks such as heredity and lower collagen levels.

So how does the product work? Stretch marks initially look like pinkish, reddish or brownish lines. Gradually, these lines will flatten and fade with time. Mark Minimizer is said to help the natural process by providing skin with nutrients that hasten cell growth.

Lactic acid is said to exfoliate old skin, while lipids help create new, healthy and radiant skin. It will take at least eight weeks of twice daily use for the product to make its mark. The product is no bleach, says Infante, but it has the moisturizing properties found in ordinary lotions.

"Some women experienced visible improvements in their skin in less than eight weeks," says Infante. "We had the product tested by dermatologists. There may be some who are sensitive to it, but overall it has no known side effects."

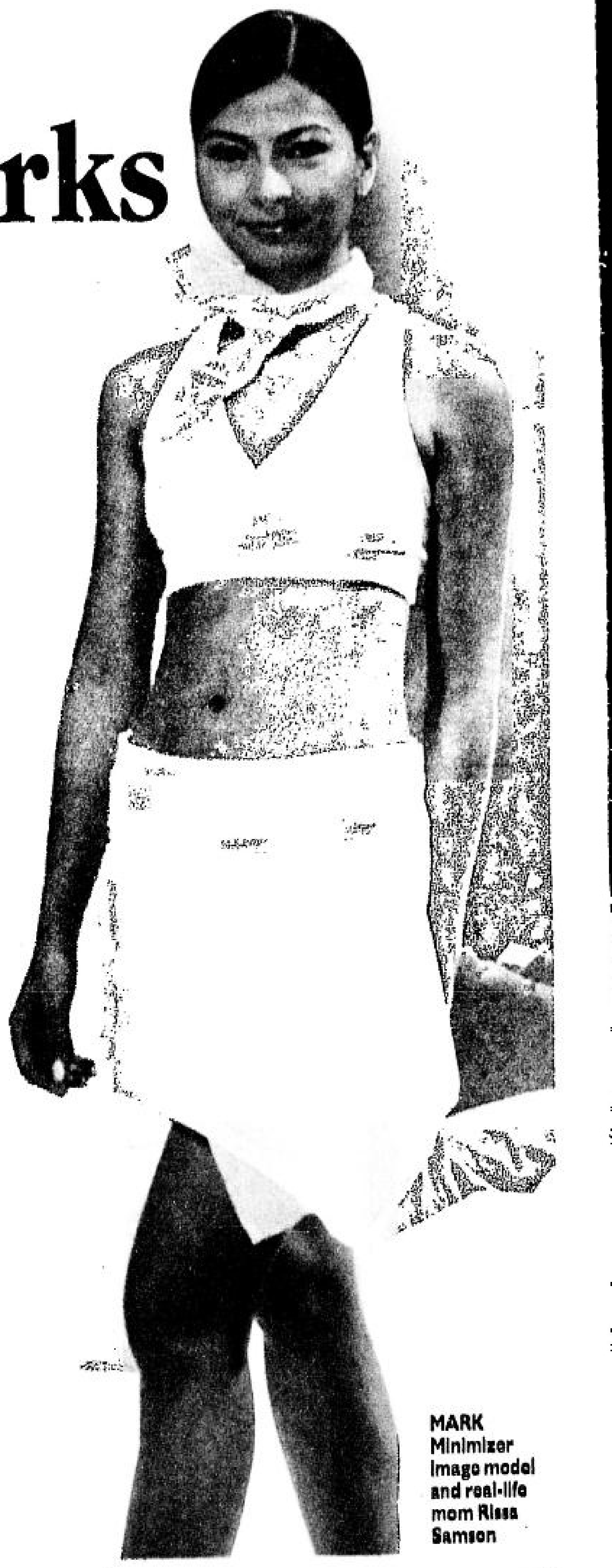
The Mark Minimizer has been out in the market since late last year and has been enjoying brisk sales, thanks in part to its print and TV commercials featuring model Rissa Samson. The real-life wife and mother swore by the product's efficacy before she did the catwalk with fellow mannequins dressed mostly in cropped and tight-fitting outfits by French Connection and Aura. Modern and belly dancers provided additional entertainment.

Despite such a bottled breakthrough, people behind the Mark Minimizer admit that it can only go so far in reducing the appearance of those dreaded stretch marks. You'd have to undergo some form of skin surgery to totally eliminate them.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

THE VASELINE promise can be yours in eight weeks.

BOTTLED breakthrough is no miracle drug.



MARK Minimizer image model and real-life mom Rissa Samson

Romantic but cutting-edge

From page E1

quick styling, Tam suggests wax-based styling aids like Bed Head Rubber Rage.

Turvey agrees, "My favorite product is the Bed Head Stick. My hair can be stubborn so I need products with great control. This works great for me as I usually have my hair styled a little funky!"

Salon de Ken is located on C. Palanca Avenue in Legaspi Village, Makati.

Tigi Bed Head is available at Salon de Ken and other leading salons.

G FOR GLOW: Glowing G with Bed Head Girl Toys

HARD-TO-GET and charming boy next door: Brad Turvey wears a smile and a spiky 'do with the help of Bed Head Hard To Get.

G-LICIOUS: Tousled hair with Bed Head Creative Genius

IN CONTROL: Hair controlled by Bed Head Rubber Rage

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JOB Market

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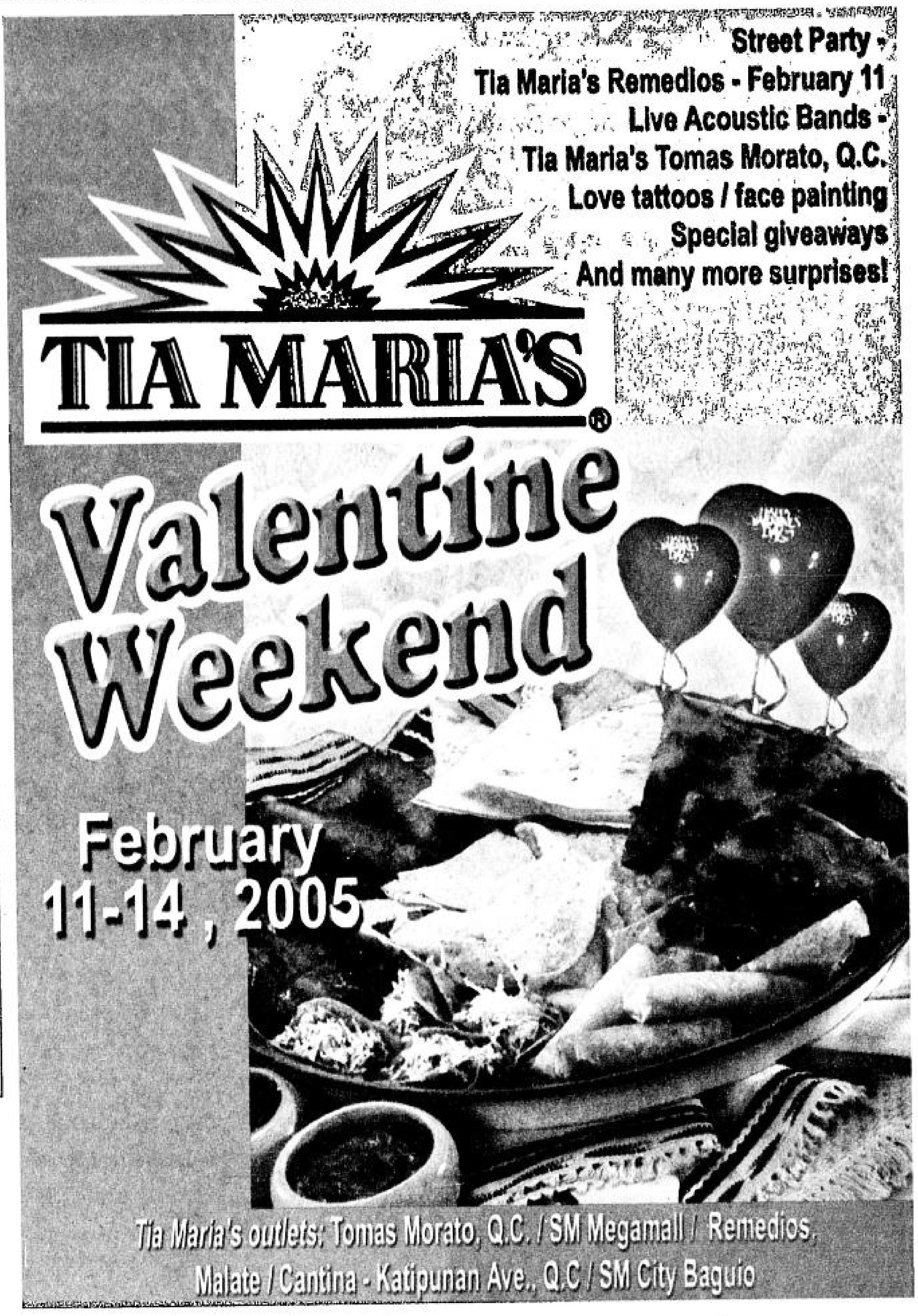

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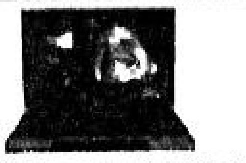

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Celebrating southern style with Globe PLATINUM

Globe Platinum subscribers Baby Montemayor and Francisco and Genette Lon with Globe President and CEO Gerry Ablaza.

Elegant souvenirs were given away upon registration.

Globe girlfriends: Davao City vice mayor Luis Bongoyan with Head of Prepaid Joy Santos, Head of Prepaid Acquisition Ailene Averion, Millet Paras, Raya Gonzales and Globe Platinum senior marketing manager Kristelle Dizon.

Head of Consumer Wireless Business Ferdz dela Cruz welcomes Globe Platinum's esteemed Davao clientele.

Motorola's Mari Litonjua and Globe's chief technical adviser Andrew Buay award a brand new MotoRazr V3 to Rodney del Rosario.

Mindanao's movers and shakers grace Globe Platinum night. (fr L-R) Gov. Domingoes of Sarangani, Globe Platinum's Sheila Sarmiento, Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo, Raya Gonzales of Globe, businessman Anton Lagdameo, Alex Sam, and Sonny Dizon of Dizon Farms.

Globe executives delight in the southern comforts of Davao City.

Cosmopolitan chic met laidback southern elegance as Globe Platinum – the country's premier mobile purveyor of the highlife – played host to the prime movers, beautiful people and distinguished personages of Davao City for a night of fine dining, first-rate entertainment and fabulous company. Held in celebration of Globe Platinum's longstanding relationships with esteemed clients belonging to Davao City's inner circle, the evening bore the distinction of being the first Globe Platinum Night held outside Metro Manila.

Globe Platinum subscribers were treated to a breathtaking view of the city lights as they drove up to the swanky Mediterranean-style clubhouse at the exclusive mountaintop villas of Las Terrazas, which was decked out in Globe Platinum's trademark blue and silver. Upon registration, guests received an elegant souvenir and were offered tasty hors d'ouevres and a wide selection of cocktails to feast on while the celebrated chefs and catering staff of The Marco Polo Davao whipped up a sumptuous four-course meal.

Gracing the event were Globe's top executives led by President and CEO Gerry Ablaza, chief technical adviser Andrew Buay and Head of Consumer Wireless Business Ferdz dela Cruz, who personally welcomed guests to the exclusive soiree, most notably Davao City congressman Boy Nograles, vice mayor Luis Bongoyan, and Governor Miguel Dominguez of Sarangani.

Adding more glamour to the event was the special performance of sultry siren Vernie Varga, who flew in all the way from Manila to serenade the guests with her trademark torch songs. Vernie charmed Globe Platinum subscribers with her dazzling repartee, and even succeeded in convincing a guest or two into participating in her encore song and dance number, much to the delight of the audience.

In keeping with the evening's elegant atmosphere, lucky guests received luxurious prizes from Globe Platinum, such as gift certificates from The Marco Polo and Montblanc pens courtesy of event presentor Motorola. But by far the most coveted prize of the night was the sleek and chic MotoRazr V3. Motorola's latest handset was the topic of many a conversation, as the evening drew to a successful close.

Indeed, Globe Platinum is the preferred mobile service of stylish urbanites across the archipelago. Existing Globe subscribers with a minimum monthly usage of P4,000 (excluding taxes and adjustments) for the last twelve months and with good credit standing are automatically qualified for Globe Platinum subscription, as are new subscribers of a G-Plan or fully consumable G-Flex Plan at P5,000, P7,000, or P10,000. Special benefits include consumable roaming and IDD for Globe Platinum subscribers on G Flex plans. Subscribe to Globe Platinum now and be part of a sophisticated mobile experience.

Globe President and CEO Gerry Ablaza and Head of Consumer Wireline Business Ferdz dela Cruz flank a row of Southern ladies (fr L-R), Jackie Dizon, Rose Elaine Alcantara, Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo and Betsy Dizon Torres.

Vernie Varga serenades the Lons with a romantic ballad.

Lucky Globe Platinum subscriber Lorenzo Rivera receives a Montblanc pen from Globe's Head of Sales and Distribution Lizanne Uychaco.

Power duo: Sarangani governor Miguel Rodriguez and Congresswoman Darlene Antonino Custodio of General Santos.

Sean enjoy [illegible] (fr L-R) Francisco Lon, Governor Miguel Dominguez of Sarangani, former presidential [illegible] Anthony Sean and Davao [illegible] Nograles.

Basking in Davao's laid back atmosphere were (fr L-R): Noel Cortez, Globe Platinum senior marketing manager Kristelle Dizon, Head of Globe Platinum Nonie Busuego, Sheila Sarmiento, Head of Globe Prepaid Joy Santos and Genette Lon.

Guests excitedly await the sumptuous four-course meal catered by The Marco Polo Davao.

LIFESTYLE

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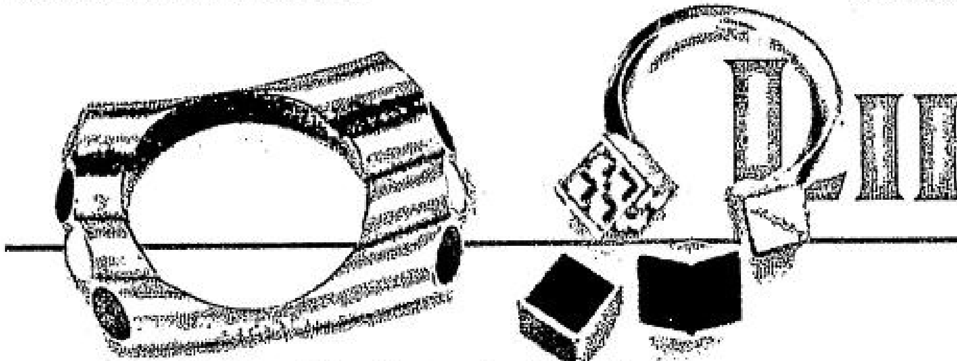
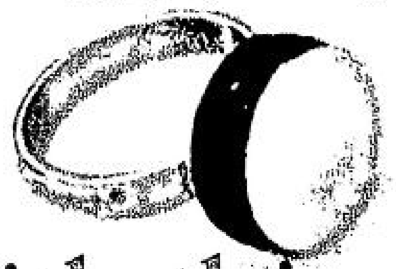
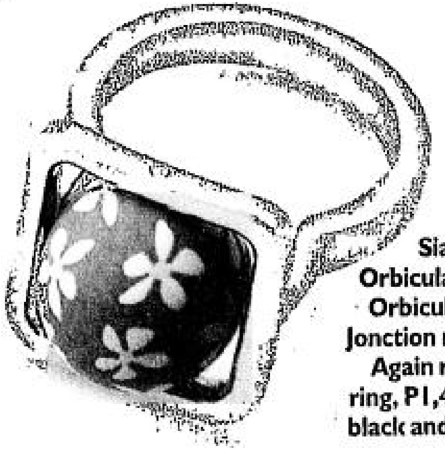
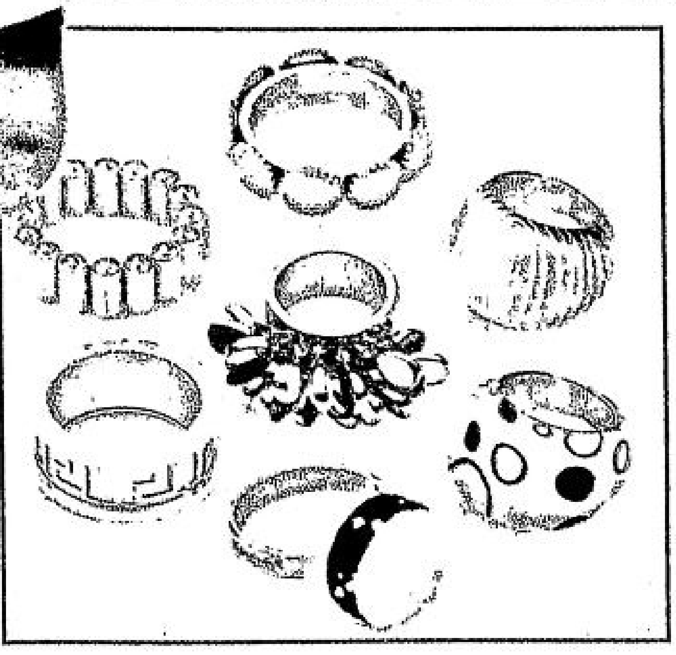


THE REDS: Swatch: Look into my heart, P1,450; Pila ring, P1,450; Jonction ring, P1,250; Ocellus ring, P1,450; Colorstair ring, P1,450

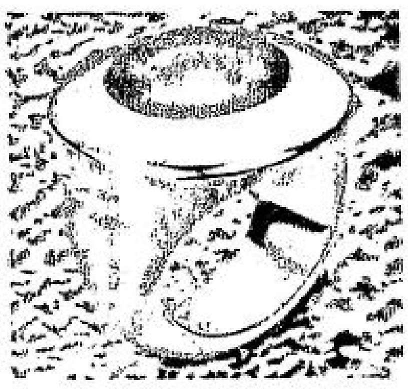
GLISTERY RING. Available in pink and lilac. Special promo price, P750







SWATCH Bijoux Silvers (right): Siamara ring, P1,450; Orbicula ring plastic, P750; Orbicula ring white, P750; Jonction ring, P1,250; Greek Again ring, P1,450; Lustro ring, P1,450; Love Explosion black and white ring, P1,450



SPHERIQUE RING. Available in red and turqoise. Special promo price, P950

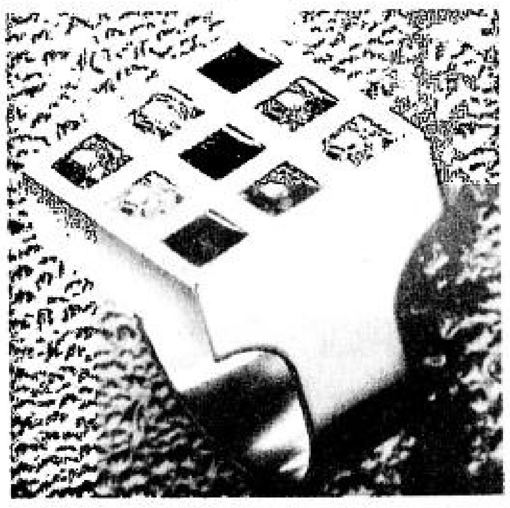
With this ring

THE RING reigns unchallenged as the world's best token of love. A circlet of metal often set with a gem, it is worn on the finger as an ornament, symbol or amulet. But, more often than not, it is used to seal a romance.

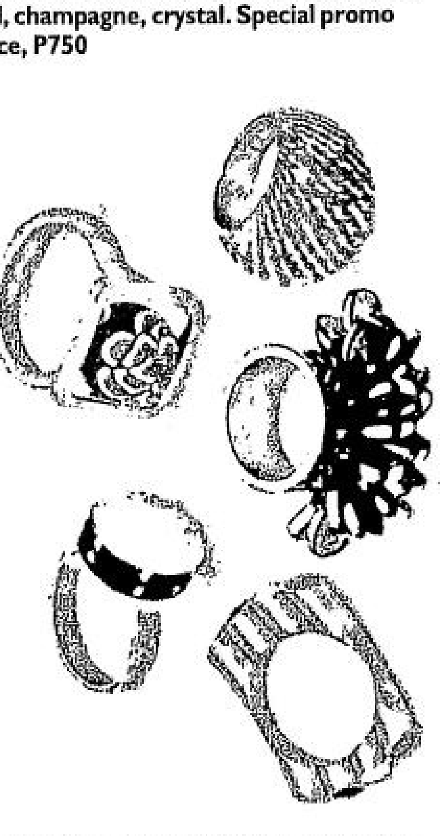
Swatch Bijoux interprets the ring in many fun ways and a circus of colors: red, turquoise, blue, pink, lilac, champagne, silver, crystal, and combination of orange and purple or black and white.

Swatch Bijoux, exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Inc., is available at Gift Gate stores in Glorietta 2, SM Megamall B, Alabang Town Center; Swatch stores in Glorietta 4, SM Megamall B; Swatch kiosks in SM Megamall A, Robinsons Ermita, SM Main, and at Finds in Glorietta 2.

ORBICULA RING. Available in blue, white, plastic. Special Offer price, P750



PRISMATIC RING. Available in blue, pink, red, champagne, crystal. Special promo price, P750



SWATCH BIJOUX BLUES: Jonction ring, P1,250; Pila ring, P1,450; Orbicula ring, P750; Love Explosion ring, P1,450; Ocellus ring, P1,450

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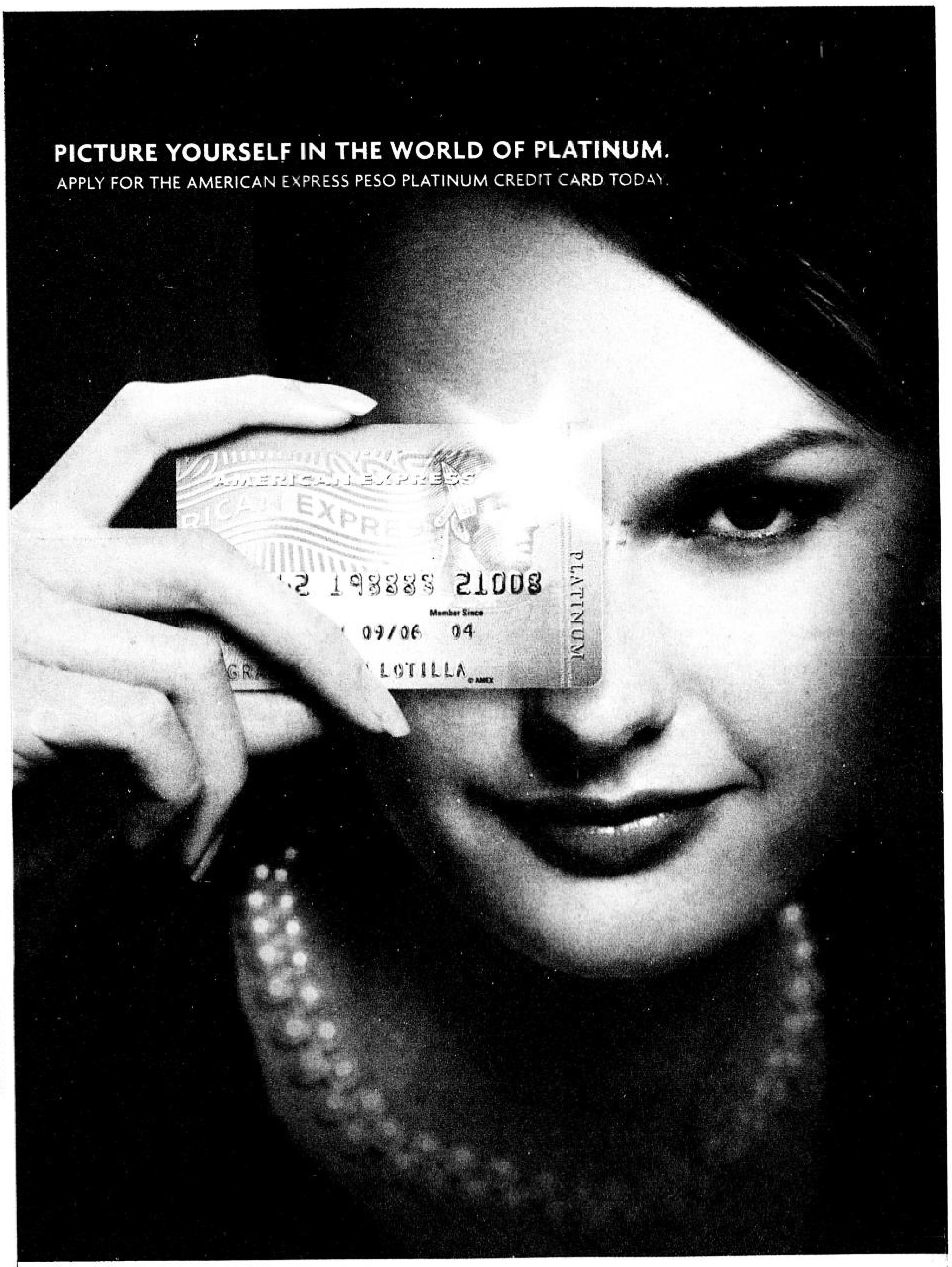

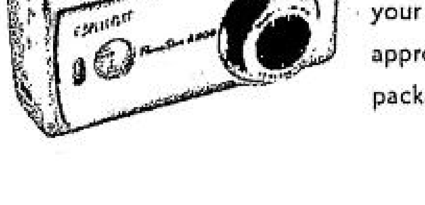

Capture the good life. Apply for the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card today and get the Canon PowerShot A400 Digital Camera FREE when your spending reaches P150,000 within 5 months from approval date. You'll also enjoy premium leisure & travel packages here and around the globe*, round-the-clock service and the best rewards program in the Philippines. Plus, all your transactions are now conveniently payable in Pesos. Enter the World of Platinum. Apply for the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card today. For details, call 814-4777 or visit www.americanexpressbank.com.ph.

THE WORLD OF PLATINUM AWAITS

Canon PowerShot A400 SRP Is Php 13,950
*Travel services in the Philippines are provided through Adventure International Tours, Inc.
You are eligible to receive the camera if your Card account is good standing and is not cancelled for any reason.
Promo period: 6 February 2005 until 30 April 2005. See brochure for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-069, Series of 2005.

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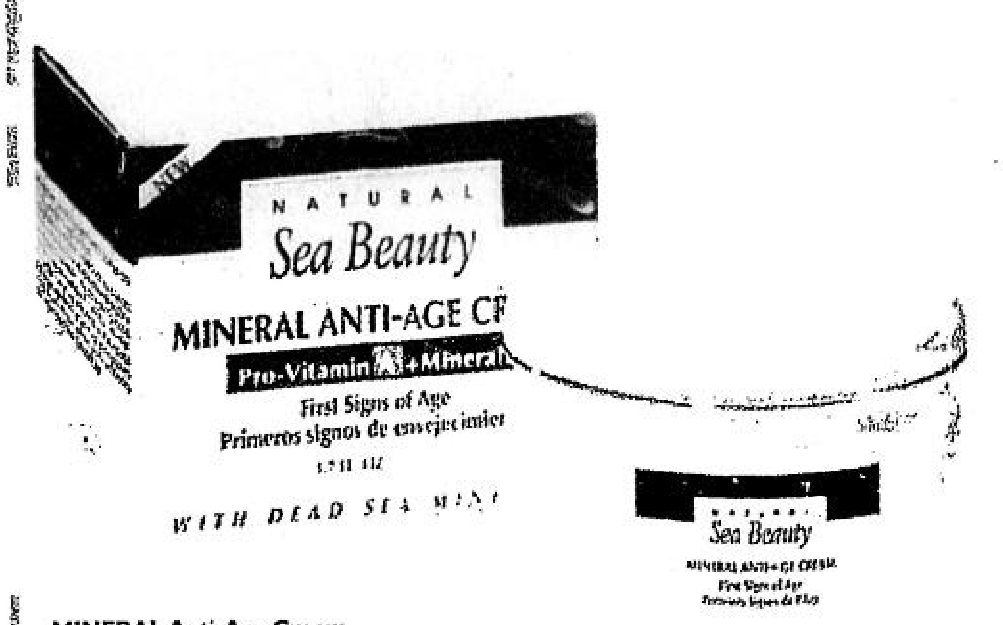


MINERAL Anti-Age Cream

Skin salvation from the Dead Sea

FOR CENTURIES, the Dead Sea has been known for the purifying therapeutic effects of its minerals. Now comes Natural Sea Beauty, a line of cosmetics created with minerals and natural marine ingredients culled from the Dead Sea, a revolutionary treatment to rejuvenate and energize your stressed skin.

For Valentine, Natural Sea Beauty is offering a romantic gift idea. Purchase a Mineral Anti-Wrinkle Cream plus a Mineral Anti-Age Cream and you get a free attractive Cosmetic Kit.

Free trials are available at Watson's Megamall. The line is available at Watson's Greenhills Cebu, Greenbelt, Makati, Daimaru, Podium and Megamall.

NATURAL
Sea Beauty
ALL NIGHT RENEWAL CREAM
CREMA REPARADORA DE NOCHE

ALL-NIGHT Renewal Cream

NATURAL
Sea Beauty

MINERAL Anti-Wrinkle Cream

NATURAL
Sea Beauty

MINERAL Anti-Wrinkle Eye Cream

Cosmetics company announces new appointments

PERRY C. Mogar

INA R. Quiogue

AVON has announced the appointments of Perry C. Mogar as area vice president for Southeast Asia and Ina R. Quiogue as general manager for Avon Cosmetics Inc.

The appointments are in line with the company's plan to integrate its Southeast Asian markets into a single cluster given its burgeoning business in the region notably in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Prior to his promotion, Mogar was sub-cluster vice president for Avon Phils. and Indonesia. He will now lead Avon operations in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Quiogue was president for regional marketing and director for marketing of Avon in the Philippines. She has been with Avon for 16 years, helping expand Avon's brand portfolio.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $6.8 billion in annual revenues and some 4.4 million independent sales representatives.

Its product lines include Avon Color, Anew, Skin-So-Soft, Avon Solutions, Avon Naturals, Avon Fashions and Avon Wellness. It also has an extensive line of fashion jewelry and apparel.

Avon is the largest corporate supporter of the breast cancer cause.

Visit www.avoncompany.com.

Shine bright on prom night

SPELLBOUND Prom Night by SkinWhite will conduct a pre-prom symposium in various schools and universities nationwide. To help make your prom a special night, SkinWhite has engaged the services of Marie Calica, contributing fitness Editor of Cosmopolitan Magazine. She will be imparting tips and advice on prom night do's and don'ts, appropriate etiquette, finding the perfect dress, beauty and grooming, post-prom activities, etc.

Exciting prizes await lucky participants. The grand prize, a "Skin White Dream Prom Package," includes pre-prom treats, a makeover, a chauffer-driven service to the prom night and many more.

Come prom night, SkinWhite will also be giving out special awards: SkinWhite Prom Queen for the girl with the healthiest-glowing white skin; SkinWhite Standout for the girl with the X-factor; SkinWhite Stunning Smile for the girl with the most captivating smile; SkinWhite Dressed to Shine for the girl who looks best in her gown; and SkinWhite Shining Couple for the cutest pair in the party.

There will also be SkinWhite retouch booths manned by professional makeup artists to assist the young ladies with their makeup, and a SkinWhite Photo corner for couples who want their pictures taken.

Make your prom night a night to remember with SkinWhite.

Robinsons Department Store

SWEET GIFTS OF LOVE

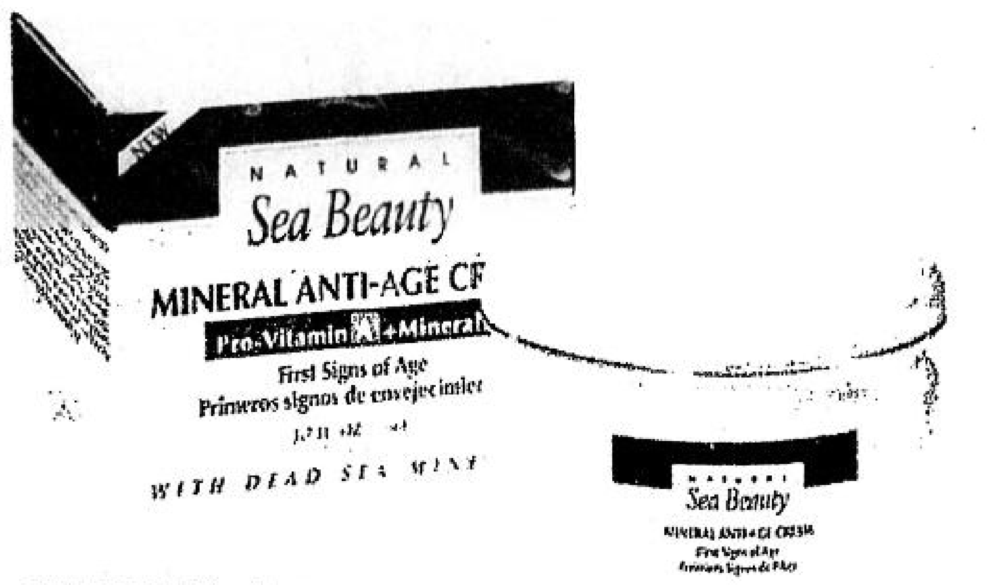
Spaghetti Strapped Blouse
Valentine Pillows
Chocolates
Heart Desk Lamp
Knitted Shirt
Cuddly Teddy Bear
Ladies' Bags
Colorful Character Frames
Fragrances
Decorative Candles
Balloon Bouquet
Silver Necklaces

Some items available in selected stores

www.rds.com.ph

Fashion everyday

Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Nepo Mall Pampanga



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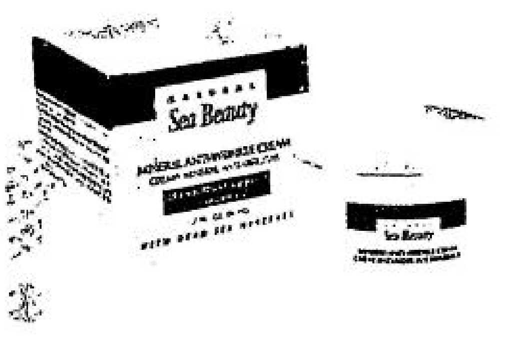
Sea Beauty
ALL NIGHT RENEWAL CREAM
CREMA REPARADORA DE NOCHE
WITH DEAD SEA MINERALS

ALL-NIGHT Renewal Cream



MINERAL Anti-Wrinkle Cream

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MINERAL ANTI-WRINKLE EYE CREAM
WITH DEAD SEA MINERALS

MINERAL Anti-Wrinkle Eye Cream

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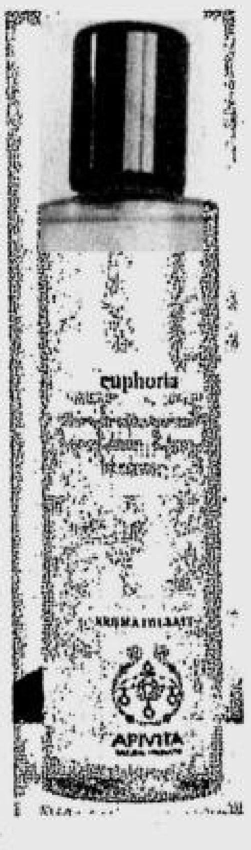
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Romantic scents and passion sparklers

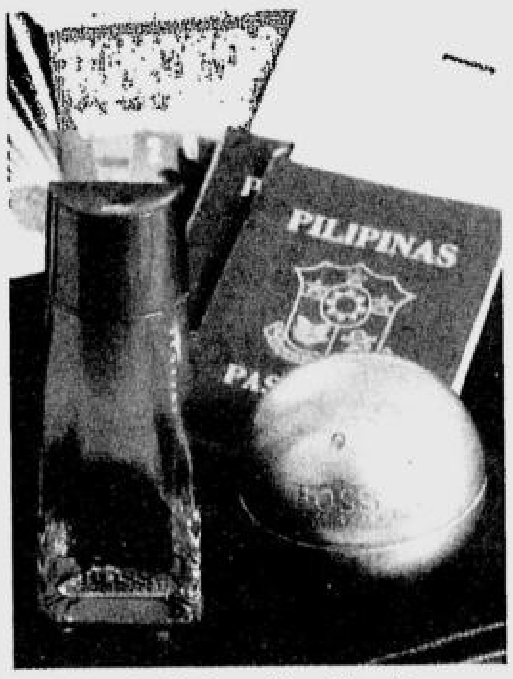
TOMMY Hilfiger unveils a new women's fragrance collection inspired by global superstar Beyonce. Called True Star, the new collection captures the alluring play of the singer's radiance, confidence and modesty. It contains contrasting florals as well as notes of toasted grains, creating a caressing softness that is both warm and familiar. Available at Rustan's department stores.

HAVE fun with a sexy, romantic game in the privacy of your room. Paco Rabanne XS Ice Breaker gets him off to a good start, while Paco Rabanne Pour Elle ensures the response of a perfect playmate. Available at Rustan's department stores.



EUPHORIA from Apivita Aromatherapy eau de toilette with ylang ylang and vanilla is a sweet and sensual scent. Made with 100 percent essential oils like grapefruit, mandarin, lemon, ginger and lime combined with vanilla, nutmeg and cardamom, Euphoria is a pink notion that nourishes the body and satisfies the soul.

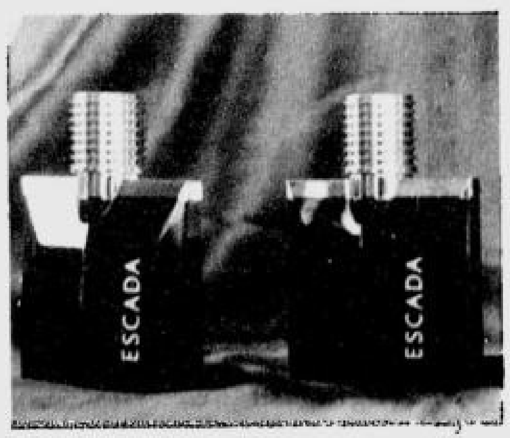
Harmony eau de toilette from Apivita contains bergamot and jasmin with orange, rose plus seaweed and green tea extracts. A long-lasting unisex fragrance, Harmony is perfect for tired, stressed skin. Available at Rustan's and Essenses.



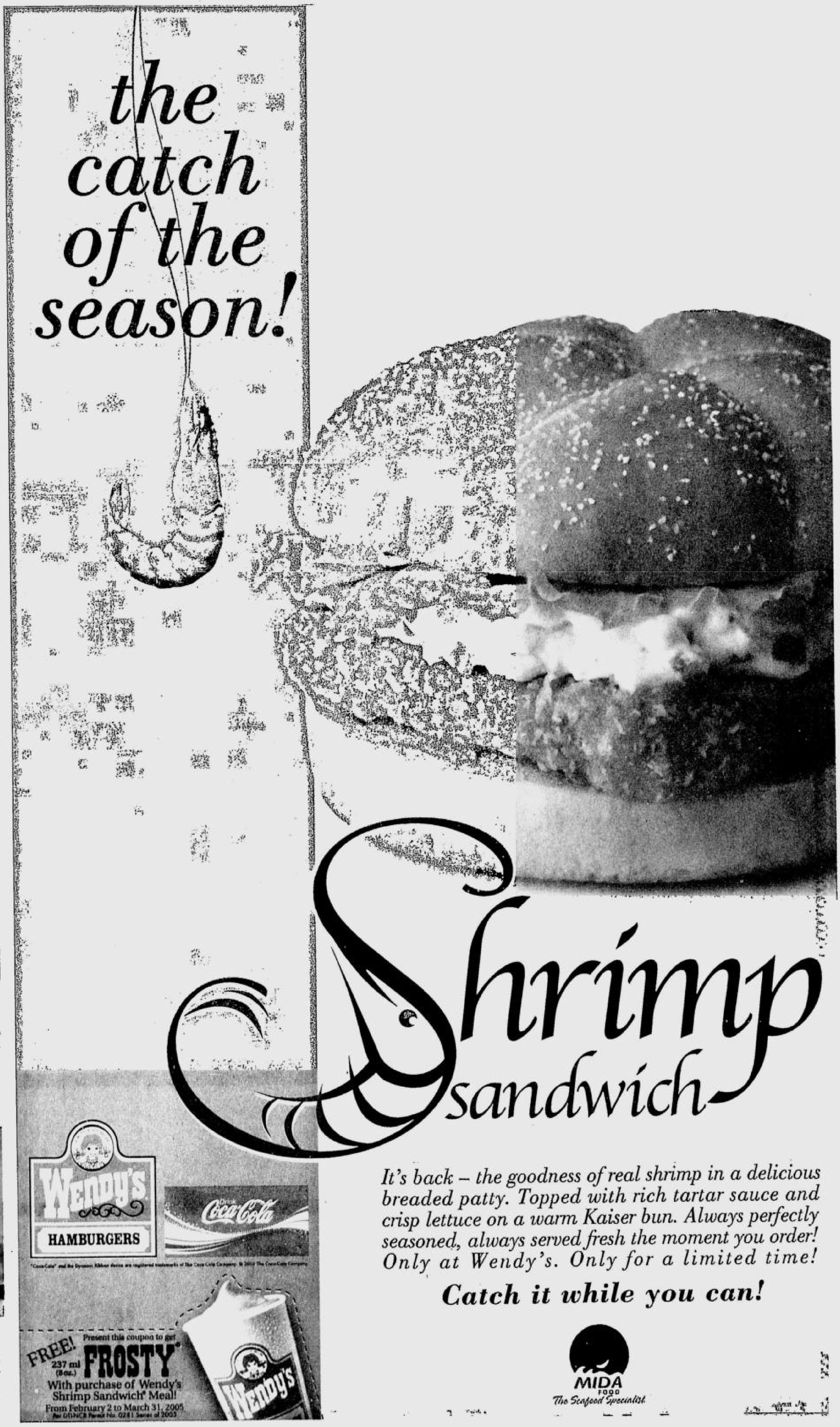
HUGO Boss in Motion and Hugo Boss Intense Shimmer are scents that evoke action, confidence and energy.

IF YOU take pleasure in the comforts of a serene environment, a date at the spa will do wonders for your mind, body and spirit. Preserve the sensation with Flowerbykenzo, a powdery scent filled with the urban energy of instant freshness and vitality; and L'eaupar Kenzo pour homme, a well-balanced combination of citrus breeziness, lotus luxury and green pepper brashness.

WANT to get a little more personal? Compile your favorite love songs onto a CD mix. Enhance the mood with Carolina Herrera's Chic and Chic for Men, both inspired by the designer's passion for the arts.



ESCADA Magnetism for Men is a pure, masculine essence that is distinctive and seductive. With top notes of schinus and saffron, sensual middle notes of cedarwood, sandalwood and leather, and rounded off with a warm base of amber and musk, Magnetism for Men is woody, spicy scent that is warm and captivating.



the catch of the season!

Shrimp sandwich

It's back – the goodness of real shrimp in a delicious breaded patty. Topped with rich tartar sauce and crisp lettuce on a warm Kaiser bun. Always perfectly seasoned, always served fresh the moment you order! Only at Wendy's. Only for a limited time!

Catch it while you can!

MIDA FOOD
The Seafood Specialist

FREE! Present this coupon to get
237 ml (8oz.) FROSTY*
With purchase of Wendy's Shrimp Sandwich* Meal!
From February 2 to March 31, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0281 Series of 2005

THE PODIUM CANDID RECORDS PHILIPPINES CORP. BRITISH COUNCIL SMART
present
Jazz in love
A celebration of love and passion with some of the country's most talented jazz artists at The Chill, Podium Front
FEATURING:
Isha FEBRUARY 11 • 8 PM
Singer, songwriter, and pianist Isha sets the mood for romance with songs from her glorious debut album "Time and Again".
Mishka Adams FEBRUARY 18 • 7 PM
The love spell continues as British-Filipina singer and musician Mishka Adams, along with the Blues Echoes, croons timeless classics and tracks from her debut album "God Bless the Child".
Johnny Alegre AFFINITY FEBRUARY 25 • 7 PM
Capping the lovefest is Manila's "jazz superband" bringing together the musical synergy of jazz greats Johnny Alegre, Ehlmir Saison, Simon Tan, Koko Bermejo and Tots Tolentino.

REMY MARTIN THE PODIUM 105.1

Do the Shuffle for your sweetie

IF YOUR sweetheart loves music, the iPod is the ideal gift, bar none. You say the price of an iPod is a bit prohibitive? Well, now you have no excuse.

Apple has come out with the iPod Shuffle, the most affordable iPod ever. The Shuffle is a breakthrough digital music player based on iPod's legendary shuffle feature. It's smaller and lighter than a pack of gum, says Steve Jobs, and you've got to believe him because he's Apple's CEO.

This newest iPod baby will let your sweetie experience music in a million different ways. iPod Shuffle is ready to wear right out of the box. With one click, it works seamlessly with iTunes' innovative AutoFill feature, which automatically selects songs from a user's music library.

And at any time, with a flip of a switch on the back of iPod shuffle, your beloved can choose to listen to music in order rather than shuffled, perfect for listening to a favorite new album.

Charging and transferring music from the Mac® or PC is done conveniently by plugging iPod shuffle directly into a USB port.

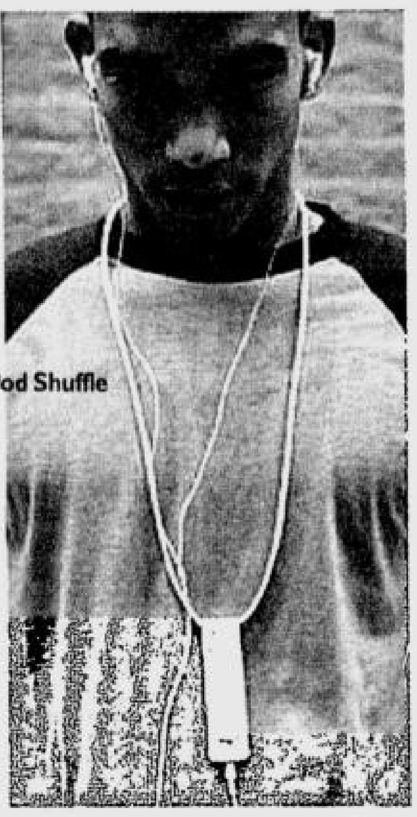
Also, iPod shuffle doubles as a portable USB flash drive with up to 1GB of storage space to back up personal files and exchange them between computers. Neat, right?

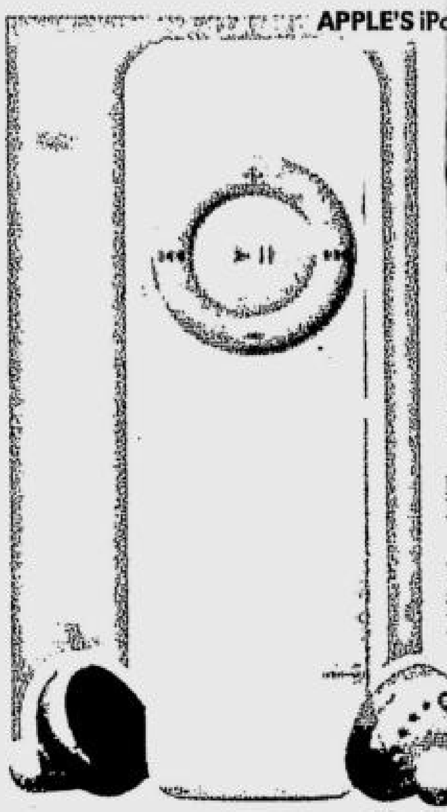
The popularity of iPod has also created a booming accessory market, and iPod shuffle is being introduced with several optional accessories.

In addition to the included lanyard, there is an optional armband that makes iPod shuffle perfect for many athletic activities. An optional sport case keeps iPod shuffle safely protected from outdoor elements with its clear case and neck strap. An optional dock serves as an elegant and convenient home base for syncing and charging iPod shuffle, and an optional USB power adapter easily charges iPod shuffle when it's away from the computer by simply plugging it into any electrical outlet.

An optional battery pack that holds two AAA batteries and keeps the music playing for up to 20 additional hours extends the Shuffle's battery life up to 12 hours.

Available in two models: 512MB holding up to 120 songs for just P6,999.00 and 1GB holding up to 240 songs for just P9,999.

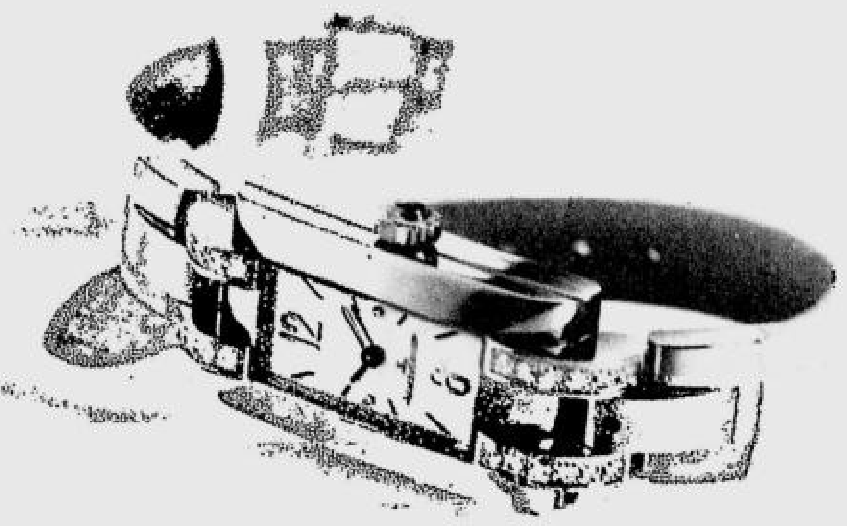




APPLE'S iPod Shuffle

TRULY TREO.
Palmone Inc.'s Treo 650, an upgrade of the award-winning Treo 600 design, combines a full-featured quad-band mobile phone, a Palm OS organizer, messaging and web access functionality within a compact form factor. With calendar, contacts, tasks, memos and more, it lets users organize and simplify their business and personal lives in one place. Treo 650 has been tested to work with Globe and Smart GSM networks.

Distinctive and dazzling character...



idéALE
Radiant, intriguing and unashamedly feminine. The creativity of precious jewellery combined with the perfection of fine watchmaking. The epitome of style, elegance and true character.
LUCERNE
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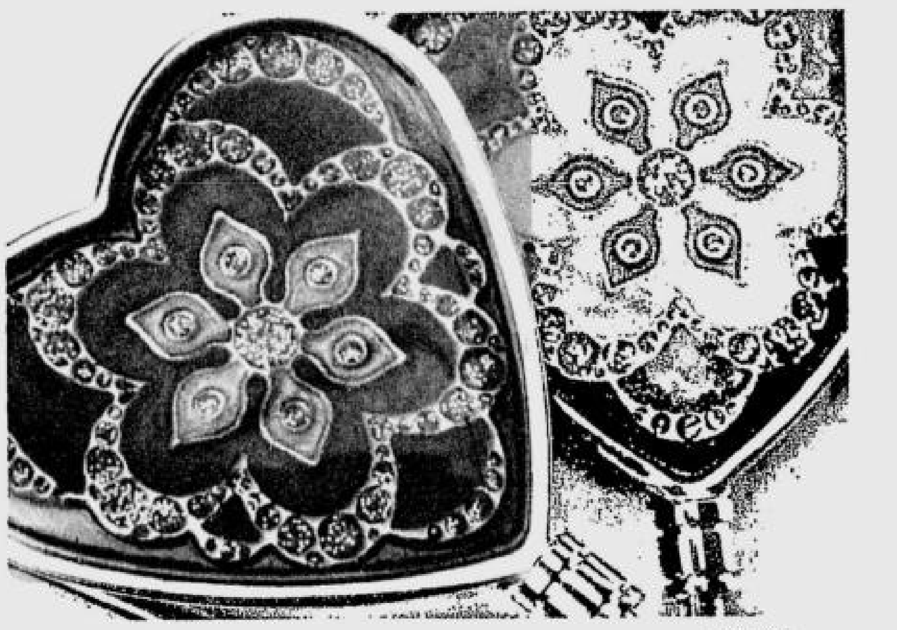
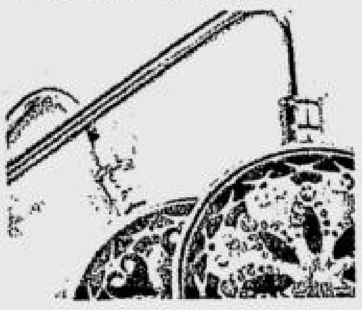
www.lucernejewelers.com
JAEGER-LECOULTRE



Hook her with this unique gift



WHILE roses are most popular on Valentine's day, you can also express love through other gifts.

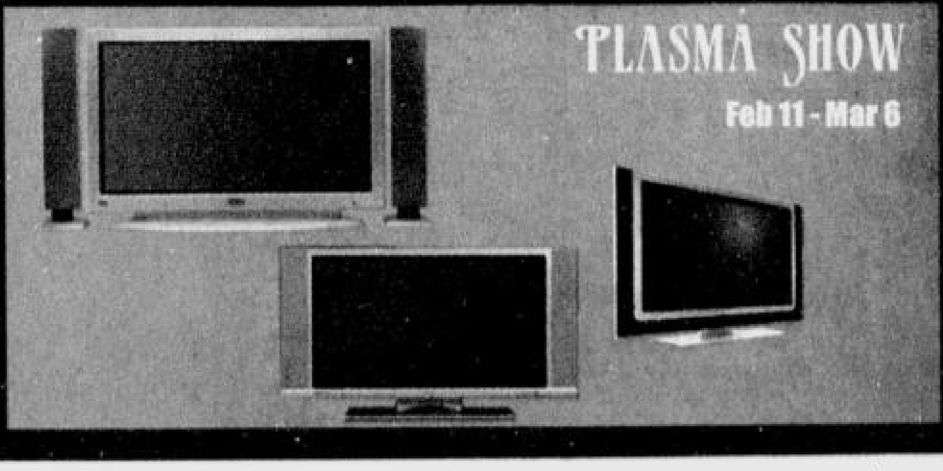
For that seemingly hard-to-find gift item or exquisite jewelry, there's Oceanic 1911 with its fine quality jewelry and unique gift selections.

The unique handbag holder is a perfect present for your girlfriend. It's a glamorous and useful accessory to keep bags safely next to her when she drives or goes to mass, or to simply keep the bag in place.

Smart gift seekers will find that Oceanic 1911's items are tasteful yet affordable. Visit Oceanic 1911 now and discover a treasure trove of timeless gifts.

Oceanic 1911 branches are located at Glorietta 1, SM City Manila, SM Southmall, SM Megamall, SM Northmall and Festival Mall.

SA DAMI NG PAGPIPILIAN, MARAMING MAPUPUSUAN!
'Sanlibong stalls ang naghihintay sa inyo sa GSC ngayong buwan ng mga puso!
JEWELRY FAIR
Feb 11 - Mar 6
PLASMA SHOW
Feb 11 - Mar 6
Ngayong Valentine's, 'di ka na mauubusan ng pang-regalo. Dahil mula Feb. 11 to March 06, 1,000 stalls of assorted shopping items ang naghihintay sa iyo. May Plasma Show featuring the latest flat screen TVs and other hi-tech audio-video equipment para kay Papa, may Jewelry Fair pa na siguradong maiibigan ni Mama.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER



LIFESTYLE

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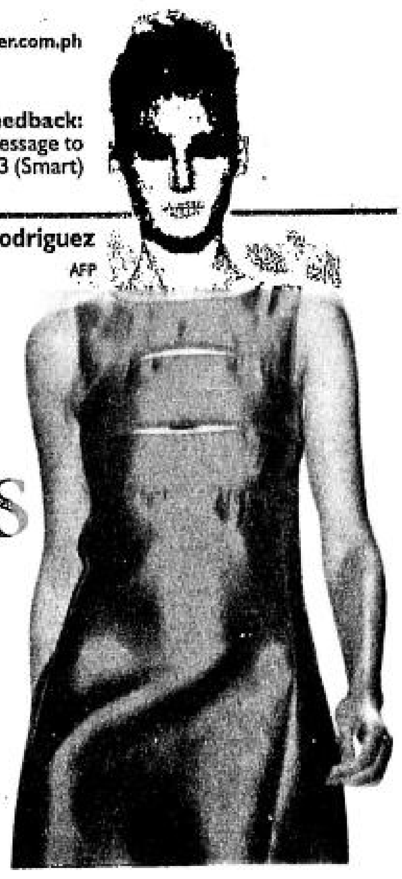
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

MONIQUE Lhuillier AFP



NARCISO Rodriguez AFP

Sleek and chic
get their turn on NY runways

NEW YORK—Narciso Rodriguez and Roland Mouret might go down as the rebels of New York Fashion Week.

There was nary a soft silhouette, crocheted sweater or vintage print on the runways of these two designers. Instead they presented clean, architectural collections—and each added his own signature touches.

Rodriguez, whose fashion show is always one of the most anticipated at the Bryant Park tents, put corset-like details and exposed seams on wool dresses, vests and coats, and there were vertical cutouts on a red heavy silk twill dress with a heavy-metal zipper up the back.

Skinny-leg pants were paired with a silver

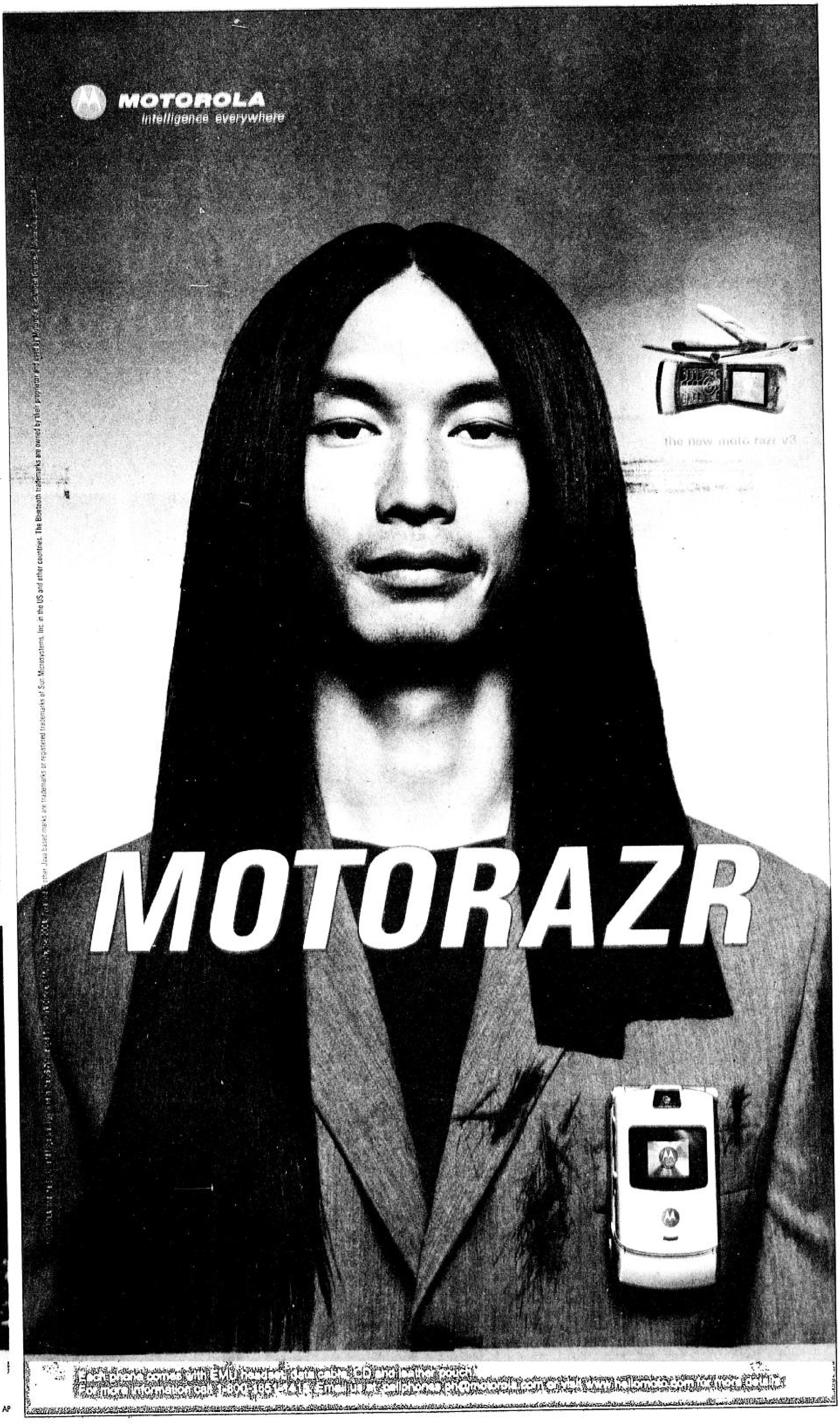
SLEEK/ G2

IMITATION of Christ REUTERS

DIANE von Furstenberg REUTERS

ESTEBAN Cortazar AFP

NARCISO Rodriguez AP



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BETSEY Johnson AFP

BILL Blass AFP

NARCISO Rodriguez REUTERS

ROLAND Mouret AFP

ESTEBAN Cortazar AFP

Sleek and chic get their turn on NY runways

ESTEBAN Cortazar AFP

DAVID Rodriguez AFP

HOLLY Kristen AFP

From page G1

satin tank top and two-piece black wool jacket and an otherwise classic wool suit featured culottes instead of trousers. Rodriguez also cropped a herringbone jacket in half before putting it with a tailored shirt and skirt.

His cocktail dresses included a washed crepe dress with spaghetti straps and a racer back in several shades of green, and a red silk twill dress with "caviar" beading, which plays to Rodriguez's tendency toward minimalism.

The London-based Mouret put models in chic, sleek pencil and fishtail skirts in a deep teal and a black cap-sleeve dress that took the idea of body-conscious to the extreme. He also offered a sophisticated strapless ball gown in peach with swaths of black and a striking group of asymmetrical suit separates.

Stylist Phillip Bloch, who helps Hollywood stars pick their red-carpet outfits, said he wished Mouret would cut his clothes a little bigger since very few actresses—let alone average women—can fit in them.

Nonetheless, Bloch is a booster of Mouret, who staged his show at a stark downtown studio. "His collection has become well-rounded. There's a charming elegance to it, and something slightly romantic," he said.

Earlier in the day, the fashion world's focus was on Isaac Mizrahi, the 1990s' superstar designer who lately has concentrated his efforts on bringing high fashion to the mass market at Target. He is launching a made-to-order business for tony New York retailer Bergdorf Goodman and he previewed select items at his Garment District studio.

On one hanger hung the perfect black dress.

It was a variation of the shift, a simple and sophisticated shape that most women find comfortable to wear.

Mizrahi's twist was to put a separate white tulle petticoat underneath, which gives the dress the volume that's become very important for next fall's fashions.

That's not why he did it, though. Since this collection is essentially a couture business, Mizrahi said he doesn't have to worry about seasons or trends. Instead, he explained, he can concentrate on the details.

That perfect dress doesn't come cheap—it will probably retail for about $8,000.

Another noteworthy look from Mizrahi was a strapless dress made of different layers of striped tulle that create the illusion of a tartan plaid. "That's a good one, right?" the designer said with a laugh.

He added: "It's important to be lighthearted and light-handed."

Michael Vollbracht seemed to have his eye on a younger customer than in his past Bill Blass collections as he dressed models in blush python skirts and jackets. But in this season of fashion contrasts, sometimes the snakeskin garments were worn with banker's style pinstripe suit pieces.

A cashmere coat in a rust, olive and tan paisley was a standout Blass look.

More than 30 fall fashion previews are left to go during New York Fashion Week, which runs through Friday. *AFP*

TULEH AFP

TRACY Reese AP

DIANE von Furstenberg AP

ESTEBAN Cortazar AP

ISAAC Mizrahi AP

RICHARD Chai AFP

TARA Subkoff AP

BABY Phat AP

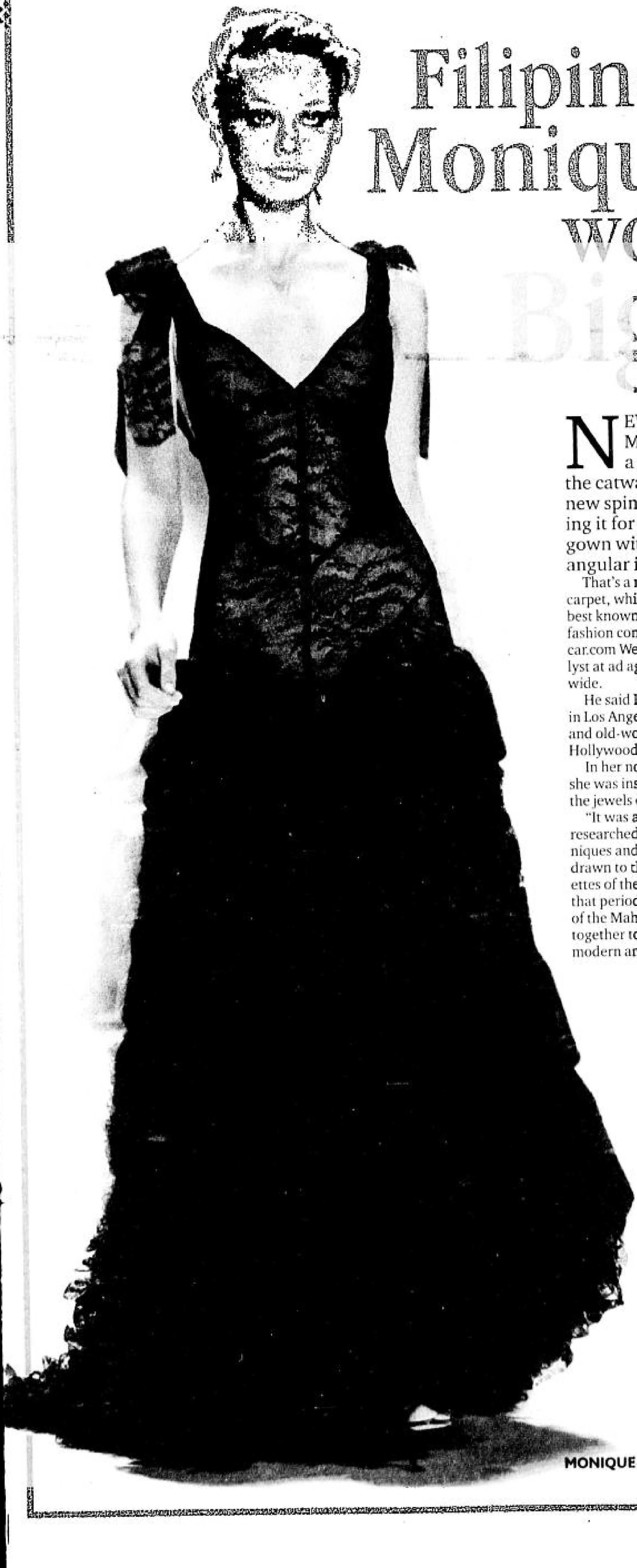
LHUILLIER AFP

LHUILLIER AFP

LHUILLIER AFP

LHUILLIER REUTERS

Filipino designer Monique Lhuillier wows the Big Apple


MONIQUE Lhuillier REUTERS

NEW YORK—Monique Lhuillier, a newcomer to the catwalk, offered a new spin on paisley, using it for a chiffon halter gown with a jeweled triangular inset.

That's a new look for the red carpet, which is where Lhuillier is best known, said Tom Julian, the fashion commentator for the Oscar.com Web site and a trend analyst at ad agency Fallon Worldwide.

He said Lhuillier, who is based in Los Angeles, "brings elegance and old-world glamour to young Hollywood."

In her notes, the designer said she was inspired by a book about the jewels of the Maharaja.

"It was a return to opulence. I researched embroidery techniques and exotic fabrics and was drawn to the ladylike chic silhouettes of the '60s. The simplicity of that period and the extravagance of the Maharaja somehow came together to create something modern and alive." *AFP*

LHUILLIER REUTERS

LHUILLIER AP

LHUILLIER AFP

LHUILLIER AFP

A date to remember: Fashion tips for the perfect Valentine look

PER Una halter black top paired with Limited Collection water-fall black skirt and organza flower bag

PER Una halter black top using The Ultimate Invertible Bra (perfect for halter tops and backless tops)

THERE are no hard and fast rules when it comes to style. The important thing is that the outfit matches your personality. The worst fashion faux pas is not mismatching or overdressing. It's trying to be someone you're not.

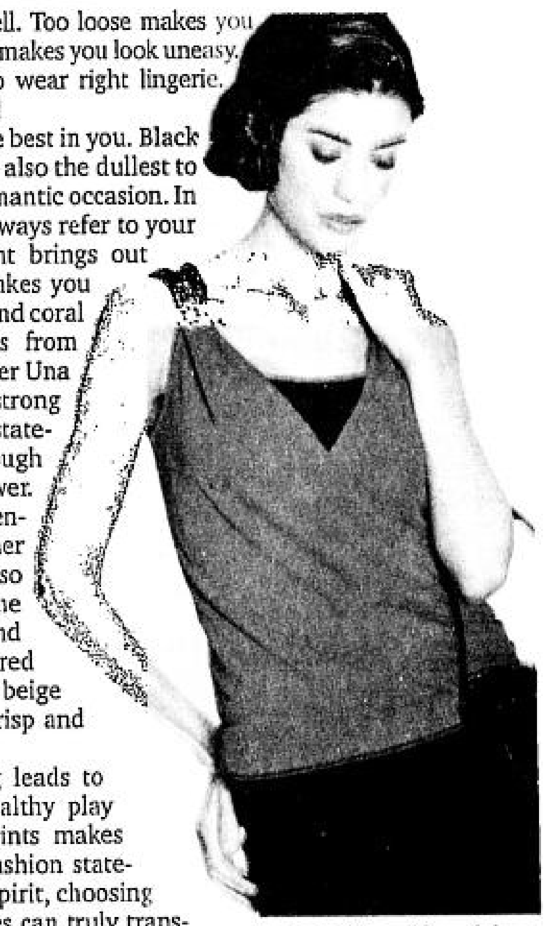
Here are a few chic tips from fashion hub Marks & Spencer on how to win your date over and, hopefully, make the romantic encounter a date to remember.

If it feels right, then it looks right. There is nothing wrong in attempting to look sexy. But not everyone can pull this style off effortlessly. If revealing skin entails discomfort, then opt for something less showy. Constantly pulling your top or fixing your back will inevitably cause discomfort to your date as well. A better alternative is choosing a silhouette that shows the shape of your body. Pieces in silk or jersey fabrics are your best bet, such as the feminine tops from Marks & Spencer's Limited Collection. Be keen on the fit as well. Too loose makes you look sloppy. Too tight makes you look uneasy. It's also important to wear right lingerie. Remember: seamless!

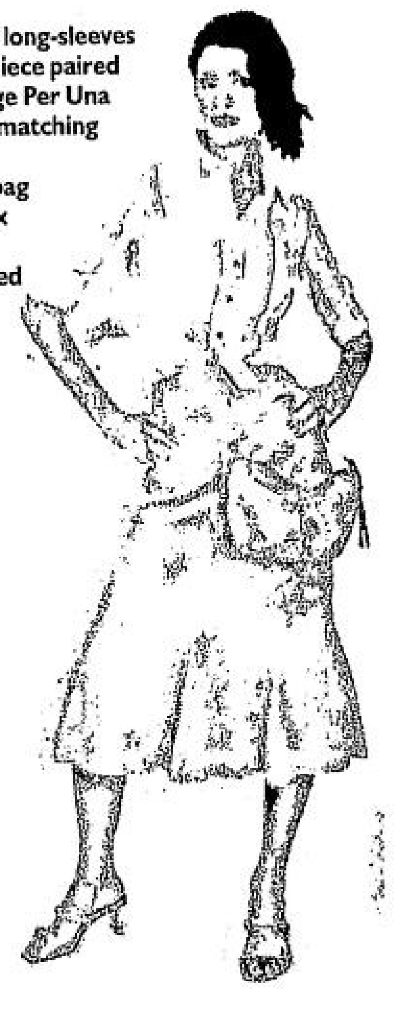
TRULY You lace camisole with Limited Collection pink cardigan paired with Per Una jeans

Hue brings out the best in you. Black is still the safest, but also the dullest to choose for such a romantic occasion. In selecting a shade, always refer to your skin tone. What tint brings out your eyes? What makes you glow? Peach, pink, and coral are popular choices from Marks & Spencer's Per Una collection. They're strong enough to make a statement, yet subtle enough so as not to overpower. Contrary to convention, pink and other pastel colors also work for men. The look is refreshing and charming. This paired with light gray or beige pants results in a crisp and clean aura.

Excessive mixing leads to mismatching. A healthy play of textures and prints makes for a very strong fashion statement. In the same spirit, choosing beautiful accessories can truly transform a look and bring it to another level. For instance, a python skin bag provides that extra oomph to a woolen skirt. Or an elegant brooch makes a huge difference to a basic shirt. Trinkets indeed add character to a wardrobe. But as quickly as these details make a look, overuse breaks the look as well.



BROOCH top V-neck in red with inner black strappy vest paired with Limited Collection water fall black skirt and a black suede shoulder bag



STRETCH long-sleeves piece-by-piece paired with a beige Per Una skirt with matching suedette shoulder bag in pink mix and embellished mule sandals in gold

Let your natural instincts guide you. With whatever you decide to wear, do wear it with confidence.

Mark & Spencer boutiques are located at Shangri-La Plaza; Glorietta 4; SM Megamall Bldg A; Greenbelt 3; Alabang Town Center; Robinson's Place Malate; Powerplant Rockwell; SM City North Edsa; Gateway, Araneta Center; Ayala Center Cebu; Starmills Pampanga; Rustan's Harrison Plaza; Robinson's Galleria.

Limited Collection and Per Una Collection available at Marks & Spencer boutiques located at Shangri-La Plaza and Greenbelt 3. Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc. is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines.

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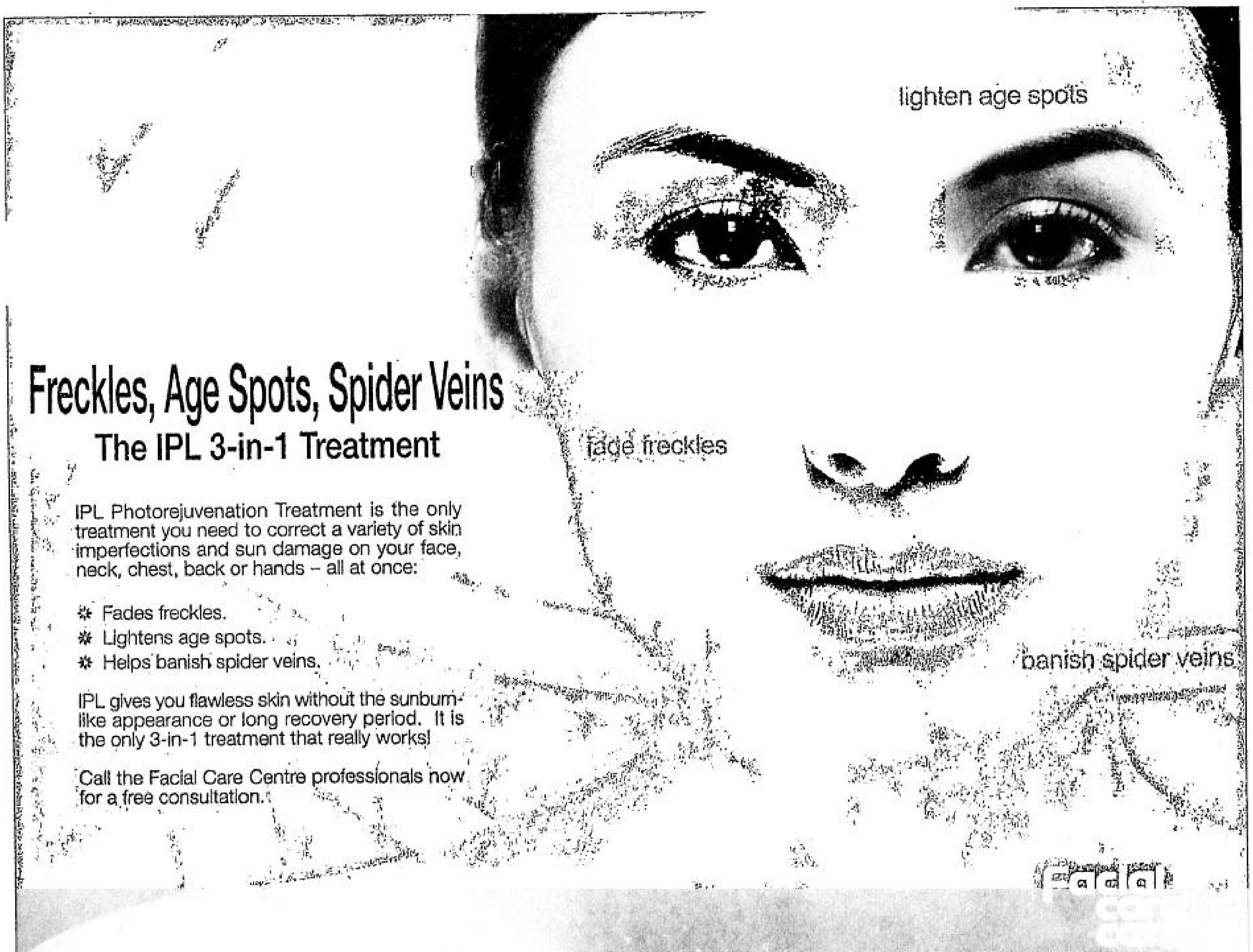

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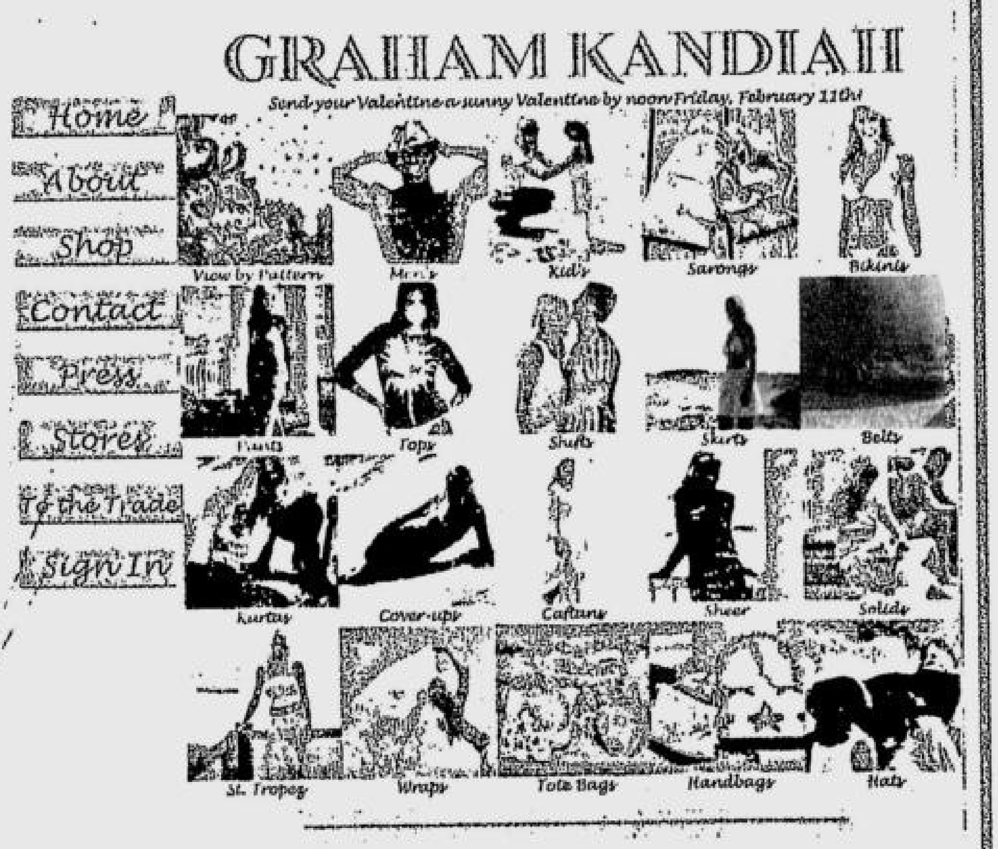
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Head toward the Riviera and check out this renowned Capri boutique that offers hand-made jeweled sandals. The boutique is quite an institution and has been favored by the jet set and royalty for more than 50 years now.

Online shopping, anyone?

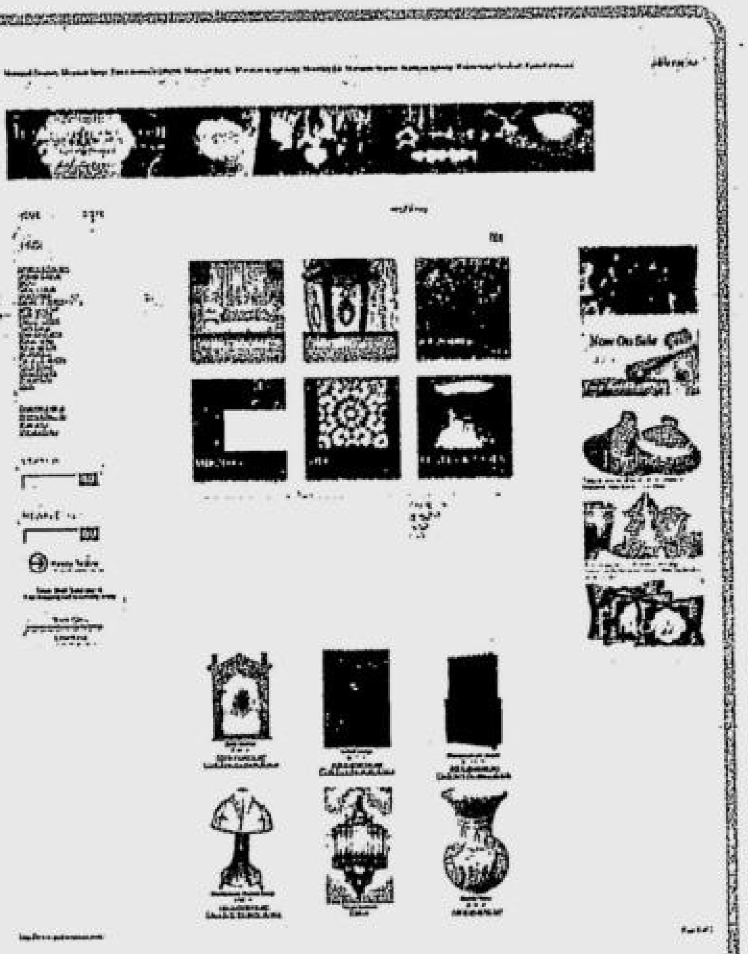
APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

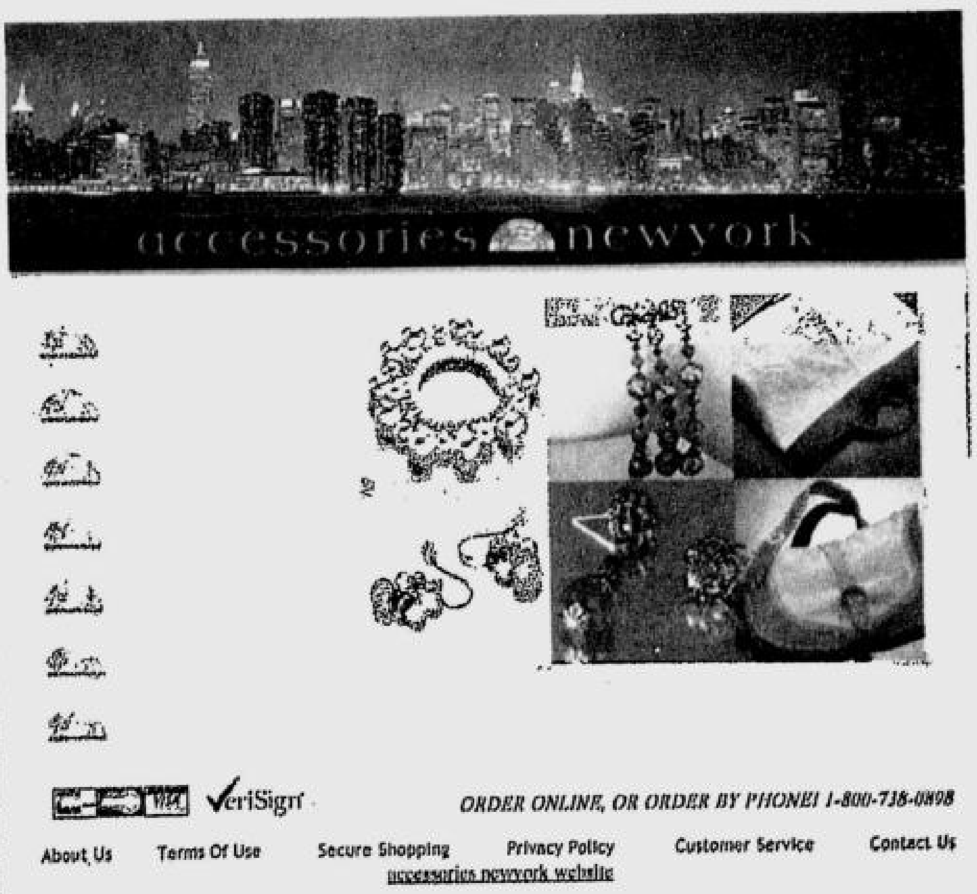
MOST women, and surprisingly even men, consider shopping (be it window or extreme) as a favorite activity. Not only is it fun and relaxing, it is even therapeutic and dare I say, an alternative form of cardiovascular activity.

And although Manila is now quite a Mecca for shopaholics and fashionistas, there's a totally different kind of thrill to be had from shopping in diverse places around the globe. Unfortunately, we can't just hop on a

ONLINE/ H4



justmorocco.com
Do you dream of scouring Marrakech bazaars for unusual and exotic finds? No need to fly to Morocco. Visit this site and discover treasures galore like henna lamps, mosaic tables, kilims and rugs. Fashionistas will also enjoy browsing through an exotic selection of clothing, slippers and jewelry.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A cyber flea market that sells an eclectic selection of bags, belts, scarves, etc. from specialty artisans. Watch out for up-to-the-minute finds from Tote le Monde, Carlos Falchi and many others. The site is categorized according to designer or category, so you should have an easy time finding your way around.

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Dressing up for love day

ON SANDRA: Printed blouse, layered and A-line skirt with lace by In Focus Ladies. On Michael: Woven blue polo with front zipper and denim pants opening by In focus Mens

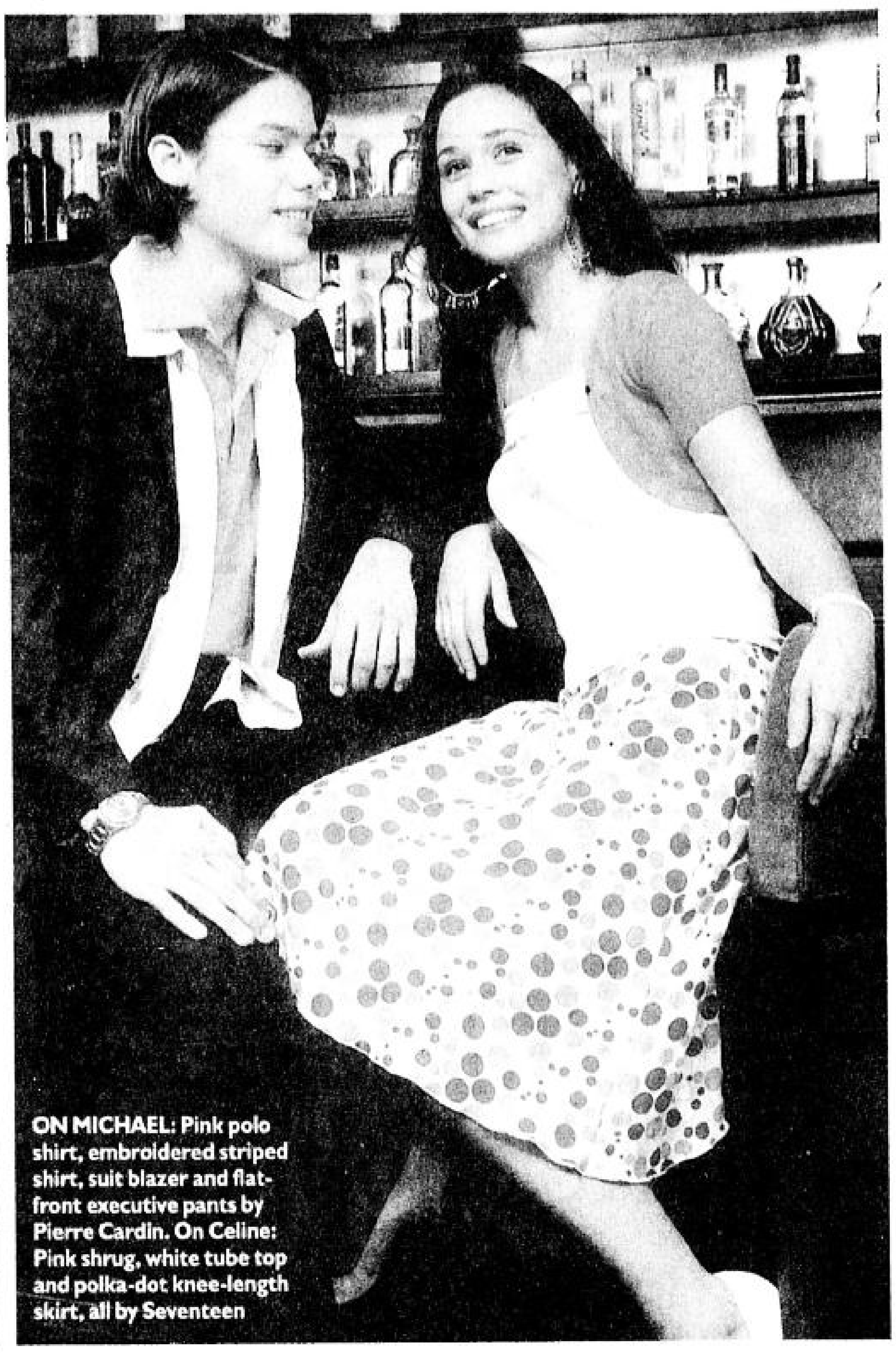
SHOULD you dress formal or go casual on Valentine's Day? Cinderella has elegant dresses for women and suits for men from the collections of Pierre Cardin, Drezee, June, Verve and Fashion Forward, as well as sexy casual outfits, such as those offered in the collections of Seventeen, Flirt, Playboy and In Focus.

To look your glowing best, catch Cinderella's makeup demonstrations by Red Earth, Max Factor, Revlon and In 2 It every weekend at Glorietta and Megamall. Special promos exclusive to Cinderella are also offered by L'Oreal, VMV, VOV and fragrance distributors—Prestige for Mango and Lux Asia for Davidoff Echo for Woman, Incanto Pour Homme by Ferragamo, Lei Saison by Van Cleef & Arpels and Eternity Moment by Calvin Klein.

Cinderella also offers gift items, such as jewelry and fashion accessories from Corelle and Objects.

For every P1,000 purchase, patrons will be entitled to a 10-percent discount at Grassi's Café in Rockwell.

This "Love to..." Valentine special of Cinderella is available at the Cinderella outlets in Alabang Town Center, Alimall Cubao, Glorietta Ayala Center, Gotesco Grand Central, Robinsons Ermita, SM Fairview, SM Centerpoint, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Southmall and Sta. Lucia East Mall.



ON MICHAEL: Pink polo shirt, embroidered striped shirt, suit blazer and flat-front executive pants by Pierre Cardin. On Celine: Pink shrug, white tube top and polka-dot knee-length skirt, all by Seventeen

ON SANDRA: Chartreuse halter gown by Verve, tiara and jewelry set by Corelle. On Celine: Red halter dress by June, brooch (on hair) and jewelry set by Corelle

PINK and red dress with spaghetti straps by Drezee (left), and pink hustler number by Fashion Forward; all jewelry by Corelle

OLD-ROSE off-shoulder crochet with buckle by Flirt; Rings, pearl earrings, bracelets, brooch-cabbage rose, black beaded clutch, all from Corelle

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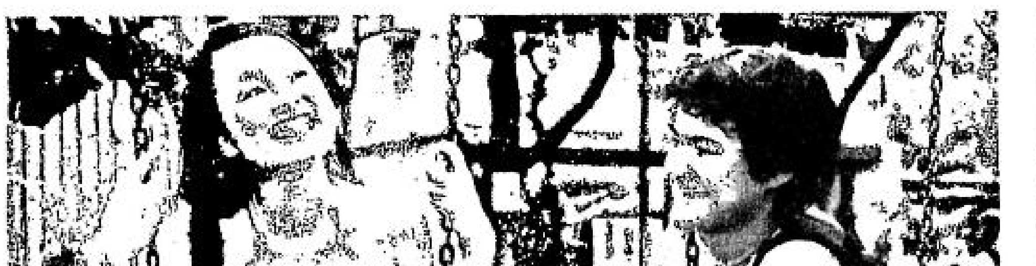

DAWN Balagot and Matteo Guidicelli

How to survive the first date

MIKE Jungschlager and Celia Hall

THERE is nothing quite like a first date. For many teenagers and young adults, however, it is often an anxiety-riddled experience. To help you steer clear of the dreaded DDS (dull date syndrome), here are some tips:

Be on time. When it comes to dating, forget being "fashionably late." Try to make it a point to always be early, lest your date feels stood up, or worse, forgotten.

Go somewhere fun. Try to choose an activity that is fun and exciting for both you, like an exhibit, a funny movie or a trip to the zoo. This will definitely take the pressure off you to entertain or amuse your partner with conversation. Do something unique and original, but don't suggest a highly unusual excursion.

Dress appropriately. Wear something comfortable, cool and casual. Yes, we all want to "dress to impress," but don't overdo it. No one wants to sit through a date with the guy fidgeting over his tie or the girl hurting in her high-heel shoes. Stick to something simple, understated and relaxed, such as the summer collection of Penshoppe.

Be yourself. Don't try too hard to impress each other by putting on personalities so far off from your own. It's completely normal to get nervous under pressure, but the more you veer away from the real you, the quicker the date inches closer to disaster.

Show your enthusiasm. This is no time to be shy. Pay close attention to what the other is saying, but don't feel compelled to stare into each other's eyes, hang on to their every word, hold hands or be overly affectionate. You stand a much lesser chance of having an awkward moment that way.

Keep the conversation light. It's very easy to run out of small talk, so before rambling on and on, observe what your date's interests are and expound on those that are common to both of you. If all else fails, focus on "safe" topics such as movies, current events or sports.

Smell good. A good cologne, body spray or perfume always goes a long way in impressing your date and injecting a little romance into the air. Teenagers should stick to something light and fresh, such as Penshoppe's Boy Dates Girl body sprays. The Boy body spray is an invigorating and distinctive blend of icy woods, green apples, jasmine and cedar leaves, while Girl is a citrus and floral concoction that is chic, modern and feminine.

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CELIA HALL.
DAWN BALAGOT
AND MATTEO GUIDICELLI
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SCENT: BOY DATES GIRL
BODY SPRAY BY PENSHOPPE
SHOT ON LOCATION AT:
MANILA ZOO
AND THE POOLSIDE OF THE
WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA

THE 52ND International Congress of Les Clefs d'Or was recently held at Enchanted Kingdom. Members of the Union Internationale des Concierge d'Hotels participated in the congress. Attendees numbered almost 300, representing 46 different countries.

MAGDALENA town in Laguna was the site of the recent first Kawayan Festival, a colorful celebration of the native bamboo and its role in the culture and livelihood of this town. Liga ng mga Barangay national president James Marty Lim was special guest, and, together with town officials led by Mayor Nieva Reodica, congratulated the Magdaleños for their initiatives to promote the local bamboo industry.

Celebrating the season of hearts

GOINGS ON

MANDARIN Oriental Manila presents Kuh Ledesma in a special Valentine show, "The Love Songs of Streisand, Legrand and Groban" on Feb. 11-14 at the Captain's Bar. Special guest is Christian Bautista. Call 7508888.

SHOW. Ayala Center features Bituin Escalante live at Greenbelt 3 Park, 8 p.m., on Feb. 12. Discount Plus cardholders are entitled to two reserved seats on a first come first served basis. On Feb. 13, magicians, jugglers and a bubble show will be presented at Glorietta Activity Center. At 5 p.m., Side A Band takes centerstage.

DINNER CONCERT. Edsa Shangri-La's Lobby Lounge stages "Love Letters" on Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. The dinner-concert features Nyoy Volante and the Mannos and Karylle. Call 6338888.

SHOW. SM Supermalls presents Joe D' Mango in "Love Notes Live" today at 2 p.m., SM Southmall, and 6 p.m., Megamall; Feb. 12, SM City Sta. Mesa, 2 p.m., and SM City North Edsa, 6 p.m.; Feb. 13, SM City Bicutan, 2 p.m.; and Feb. 14, SM City Manila, 2 p.m. Valentine concerts will be held on Feb. 12, SM City North Edsa and SM Sta. Mesa; SM City Batangas, Feb. 13; SM Supercenter Sucat, Feb. 14. The San Miguel Valentine Special is on Feb. 12-14, at Megamall Atrium.

FIESTA. The International Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta will be held on Feb. 11-13 at the Omni Aviation Complex in Clark Field, Pampanga. Call 045-9612665/2612.

REUNION. The University of Santa Isabel High School Batch 1980 will hold its Silver Jubilee on Feb. 11-13 at the USI Campus, Naga City. Call Binky Victoriano at 0916-7931905.

CONTEST. Starmall Edsa holds an on-the-spot Valentine card-making contest on Feb. 12 at the second level, food court activity area. Contestants must bring their choice of art and decoration materials. Open to children ages 7 and below. Registration is ongoing. Call 7181886.

TESTIMONIAL PARTY. E. Excel brings together people who overcame their battle against heart ailments with the help of nutritional immunology. The event will be held Feb. 12, 9:30 a.m., at 23/F Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati. Call 8110837.

SCHOLARSHIP. The United World Colleges is searching for a top-caliber fourth year high school student interested in pursuing a two-year international baccalaureate course in Canada. Applicants and their parents must attend the orientation session on Feb. 13 and 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Ayala Foundation, 10/F BPI Main Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati. Call 0919-8442603, 8945620.

MUSICAL SHOW. The UP Los Baños Thespian Circle presents the musical comedy, "Ms Philippines," by Isagani Cruz, with music by Rey Paguio, on Feb 15, 7 p.m.; Feb 16-17, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at DL Umali Hall, UPLB, Laguna. Text Kei at 0916-3263088 or Rapi at 0920-7961946.

CONGRESS. A one-day Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Parents Congress with the theme: "Anak, Ikaw ay Henyo, Eh Paano?" is on Feb.19 at the Baguio City National High School Auditorium. The aim of the confab is to equip parents with the necessary knowledge on enhancing the learning styles, emotional and multiple intelligences, creativity and giftedness of their children.

FESTIVAL. The 2nd Festival of Twins and Multiple Births will be held Feb. 19, 1-7 p.m. Call 4228877.

HOMECOMING. The UST Graduate School Alumni Association will hold its alumni homecoming on March 12, 4 p.m., at Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, UST Graduate School. The alumni jubilarians from 1945 to 2000 will be given recognition and the St. Antoninus of Florence Awards for outstanding alumni of various fields will be named. Call 7315396, 0918-83313641.

PERFORMANCES. Taiwan's Cultural Goodwill Mission will present Folklore Night on Feb. 11 at Cebu Coliseum Inc., Cebu City; Feb. 13, Meralco Theater, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig; Feb. 14, Bayanihan Institute, Tarlac City; Feb. 16, Barangay Tetuan, Zamboanga City.

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FEBRUARY 13	Cool Jazz, Cool Classics: the Gazebo, Coliseum Circle
FEBRUARY 11-14	Love Fortune Telling: New Farmer's Plaza Vintage car rides : Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. Love bouquets on sale : Coliseum Circle
FEBRUARY 13-14	Free popcorn and roses for couples (1st and last screening): Gateway Cineplex 10
FEBRUARY 14	Isha sings: the Gazebo, Coliseum Circle Free wine for couples: Coliseum Circle
FEBRUARY 25	Mishka sings : the Gazebo, Coliseum Circle

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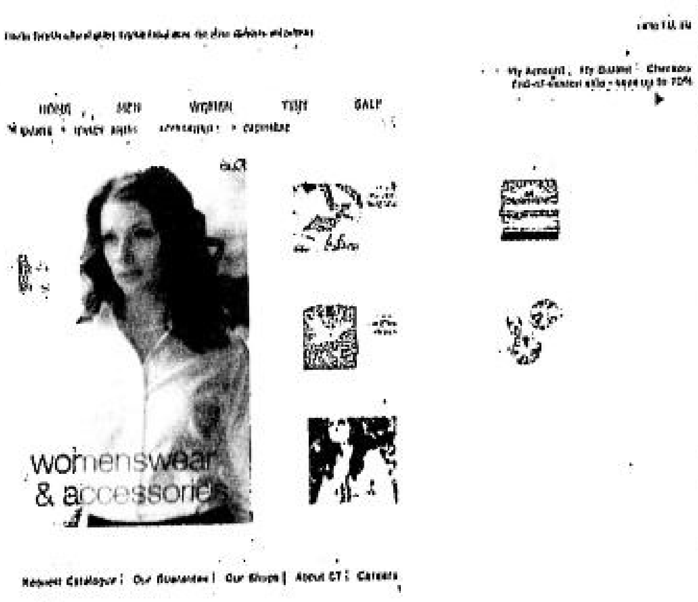
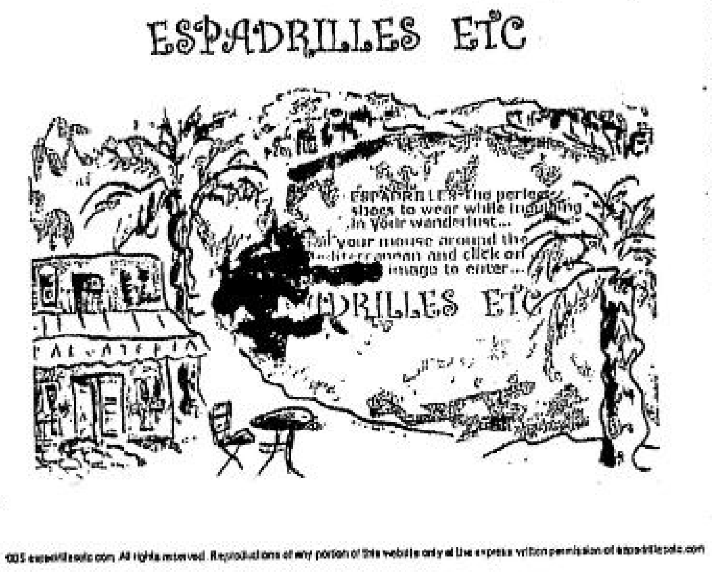
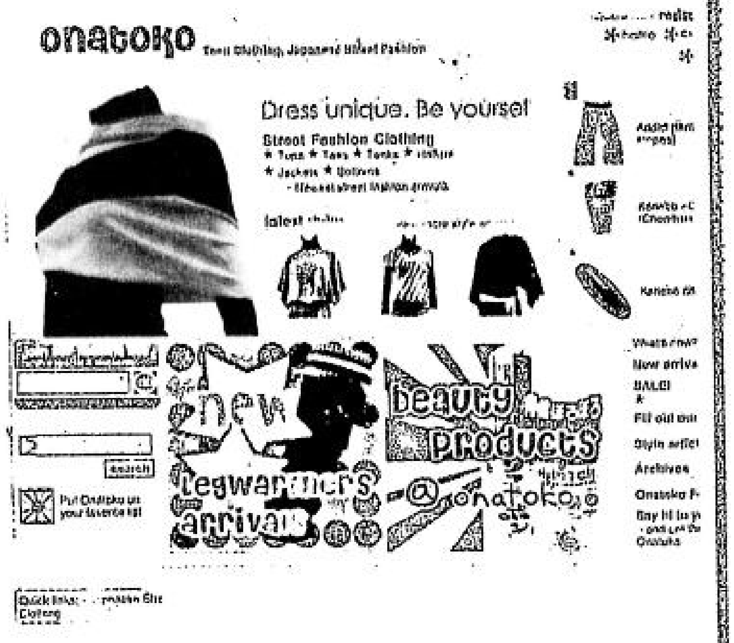


ctshirts.com
There's nothing more luxurious than a tailored shirt, and the English have been known to excel in this field. Now you can order your own fitted "Paris" shirt from British tailor Charles Tyrwhitt. Or check out other staples such as the "Classic" or "City" shirts.



espadrillesetc.com
Get set for summer and stock up on colorful, fun espadrilles from Spain. There are numerous styles and designs from brands like Castañer, Jocomomola and Ras. Go for the trendy wedge-heeled variety to update your wardrobe, or stick with classic flats for comfort.



onatoko.com
No need to get lost in translation while shopping for funky finds from Tokyo. This site offers Japanese street fashion for the young and young-at-heart.

Online shopping, anyone?

From page H1

jet and run to New York, Milan or some exotic locale for a quick shopping jaunt.

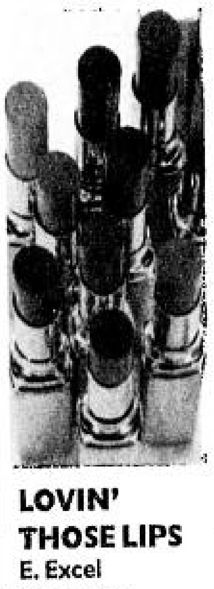
So, what's the next best thing? Shopping online, of course! You don't need a passport or a visa, and you won't suffer from jet lag. What's more, you can visit as many places as you want to with a simple click of the mouse. But just a caveat, make sure you review all shipping costs and return policies before hitting buy. Also, check out xe.com for currency conversions and onlineconversion.com for sizing charts.

Bear in mind that some sites may not allow payments to be made through locally issued credit cards and may not even have the Philippines in their list of countries. I experienced this on eBay so I had to ask a friend in the US to complete the transaction. I even went as far as writing a letter asking why we were not included in eBay's list of accredited countries but sadly, I only received an automated reply.

In any case, don't let that stop you. It certainly didn't discourage me from doing more Net shopping.

Here are some interesting sites from around the world that you might want to visit. Happy shopping!

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



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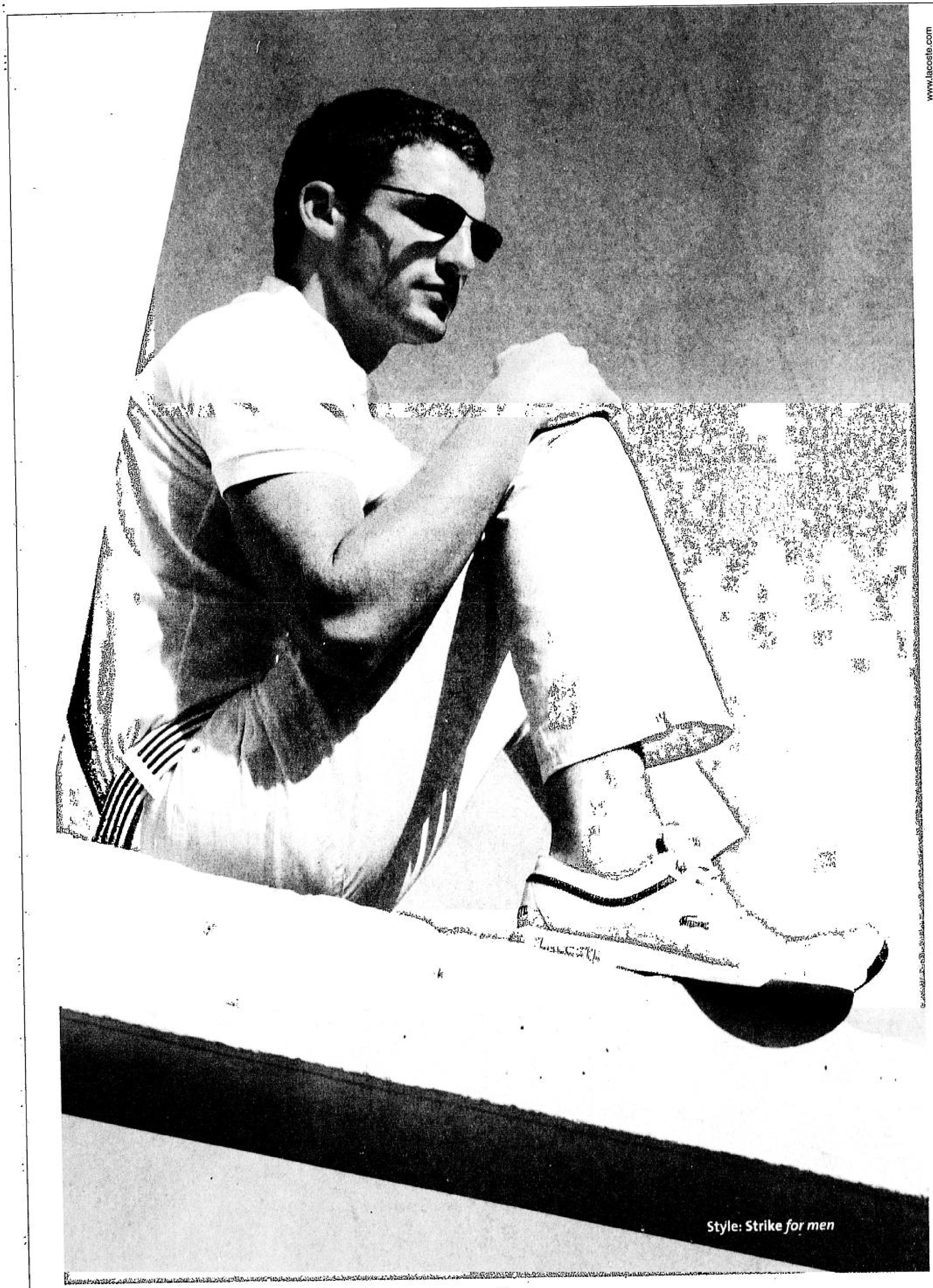

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
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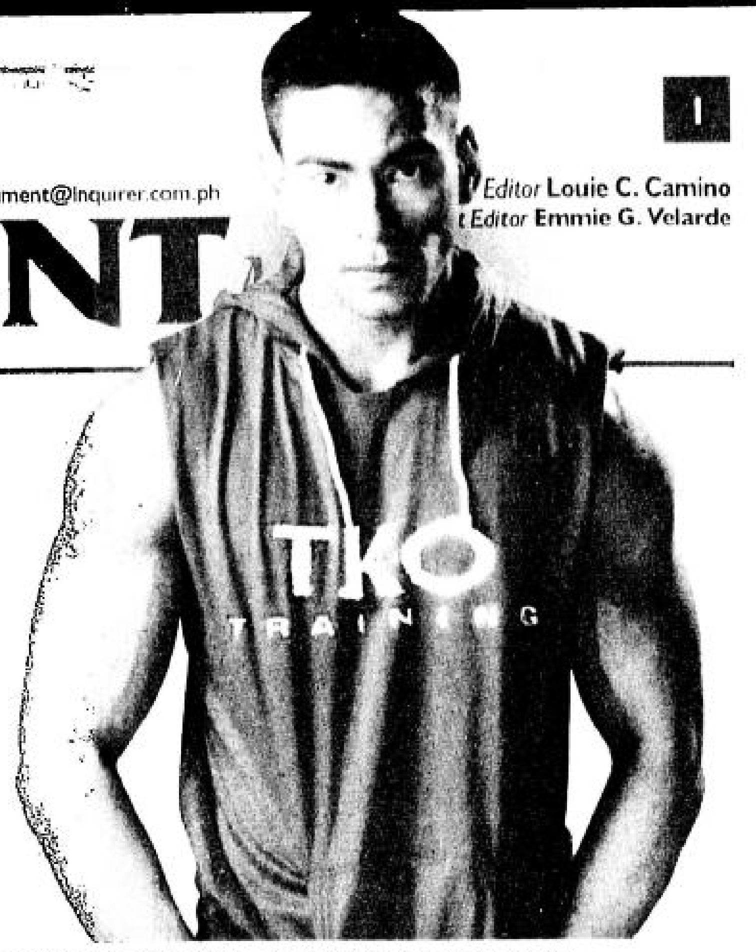
Carlos Morales , pro-kid

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor



"I WANT to be a good example," says the muscleman.

MUSCLEMAN Carlos Morales, grand prize winner of the Slimmer's World Great Bodies 2004 search is exploring the prospects of a bodybuilders' tournament that he hopes would be the equivalent of "Arnold Schwarzenegger Classic."

Schwarzenegger, erstwhile actor and now governor of California, is "my idol," Carlos says. He will name the local tournament "Carlos Morales Classic." He hopes to hold it in April. "Proceeds will go to charity, maybe to the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development), for children who need help," he says.

Like his Austrian role model, Carlos also has one foot in acting.

He feels a tad disappointed that his Best Actor Star Award for 2001's "Laro sa Baga" wasn't succeeded by other acting trophies, but he considers himself lucky to have stayed in the periphery of show biz since then. He got another shot at the limelight with "Great Bodies," which was held last December at the Shangri-la Edsa Ballroom.

"I'm into a lot of sports—basketball, boxing, football, swimming—and bodybuilding has always been my passion," he says. "I've been doing it for 10 years; I really wanted to join the contest. Last December was the perfect time, because I had finished with the soaps 'Maid in Heaven' and 'Te Amo.' I didn't accept any other TV work so I could concentrate."

The significance of his triumph isn't lost on him. "Now that I have a title people look up to me. Now I can help anyone who wants to learn from me."

A role model? Carlos is comfortable with that. "That's what I want to be for all kids," he says. "I'd like to be an ambassador of fitness, to be able to tell people that bodybuilding benefits the mind as well; and that a healthy lifestyle, not drinking and not smoking, also helps."

His daily diet consists of about two kilos of steamed, skinless chicken breast and tuna. And since the competition is over, he can eat rice again.

There are specific parts of his body that Carlos is especially proud of: "My butt, because it's big and round—genetics is my only explanation—and my abs. Usually, [bodybuilding] men have six-pack abs. I have an eight-pack, which is rare."

2005 looks good

Carlos is six feet tall, fair-skinned, and resembles action star Jean-Claude Van Damme. He attributes his features to his Caucasian father, who is "in Subic right now." He says both his parents were very happy about his victory last month. "Specially my mom... she was there for the entire [duration of the] contest."

The youngest of three kids, Carlos became a mainstay of German Moreno's "That's Entertainment" teen revue in the early 1990s. He next played second lead in a few low-key films, and later landed lead roles in sexy flicks. He says the subsequent disappearance of TFs (titillating films) did not bother him.

"That's the way it is," he shrugs. "People get tired of seeing the same thing."

Now his schedule is packed. He is the current celebrity image model of TKO, a sportswear brand. He is forming an all-hunk singing and dancing group called "Machismo."

"I'm into networking with this new multilevel company; I'm going full-blast on that this year," Carlos says.

No doubt to make sure he has the resources to back up that dream tournament.

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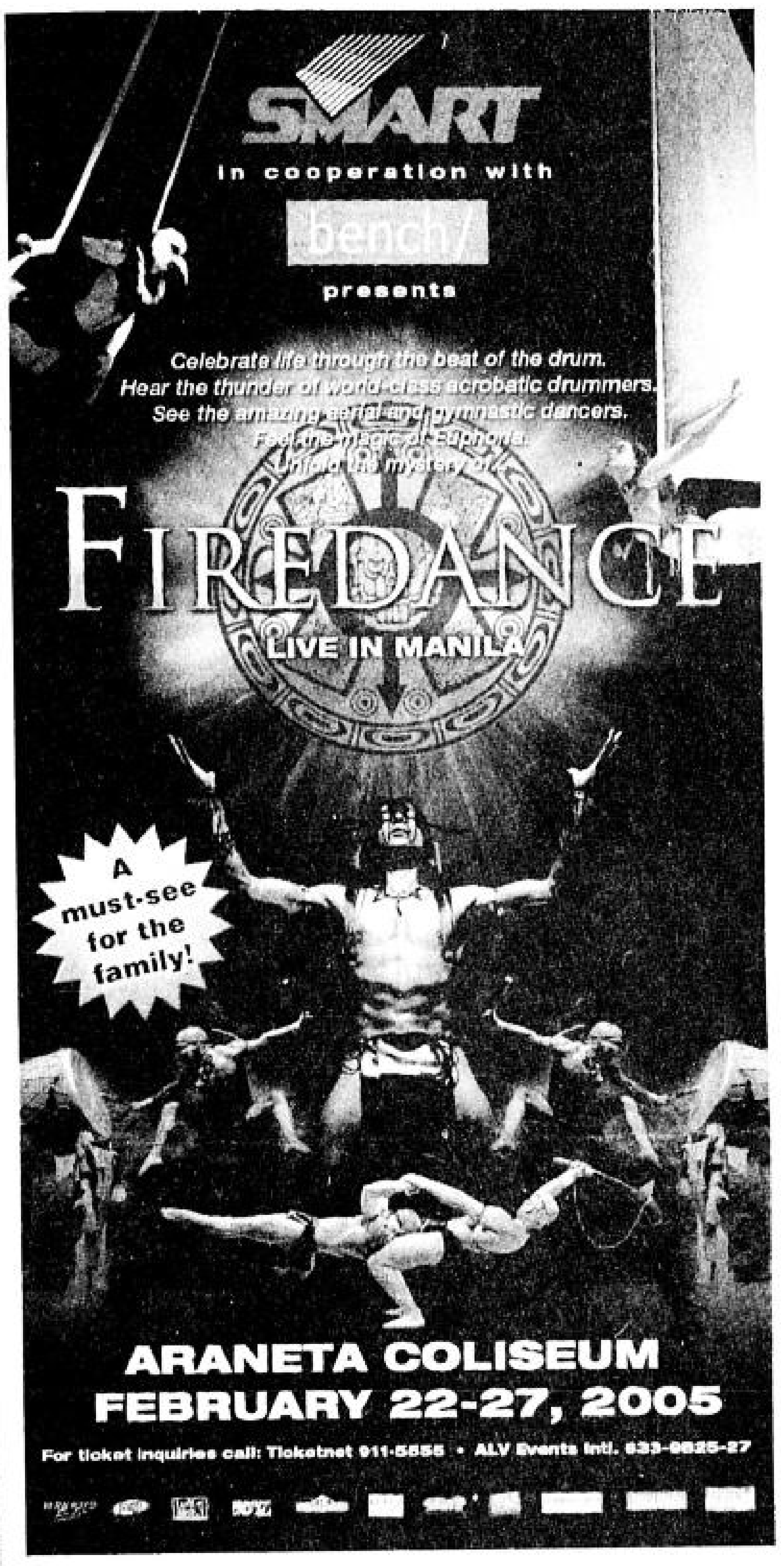
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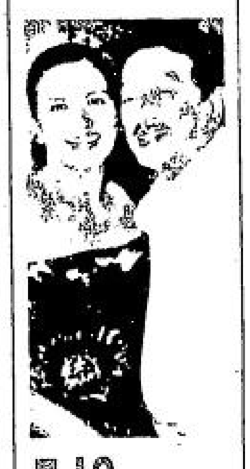
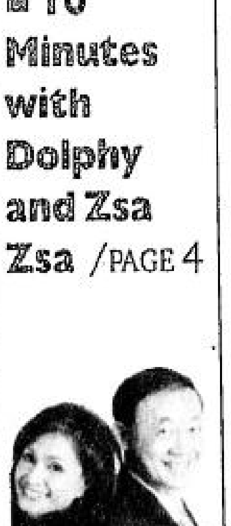
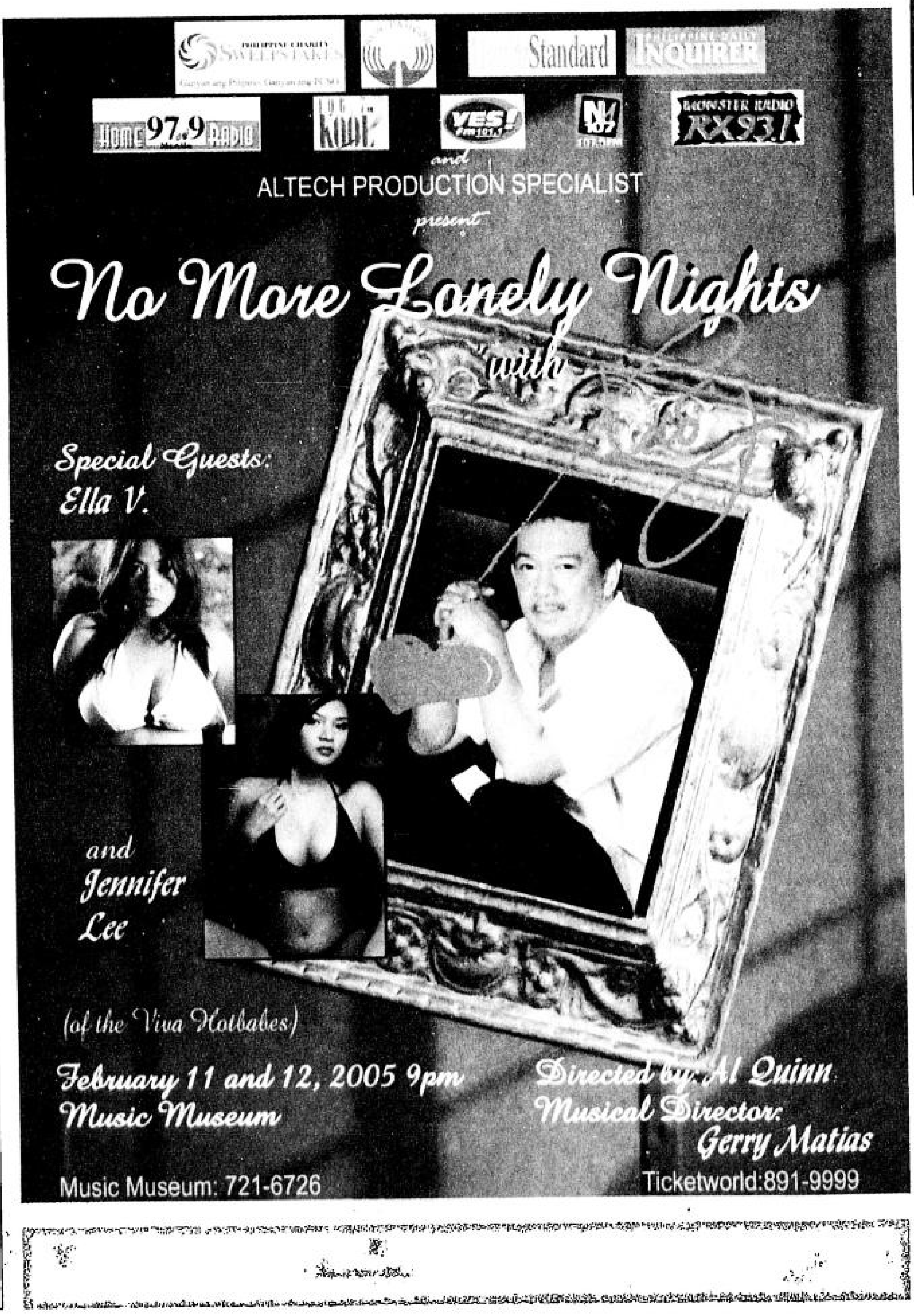


- 10 Minutes with Dolphy and Zsa Zsa /PAGE 4



- Your guide to Valentine shows /PAGE 2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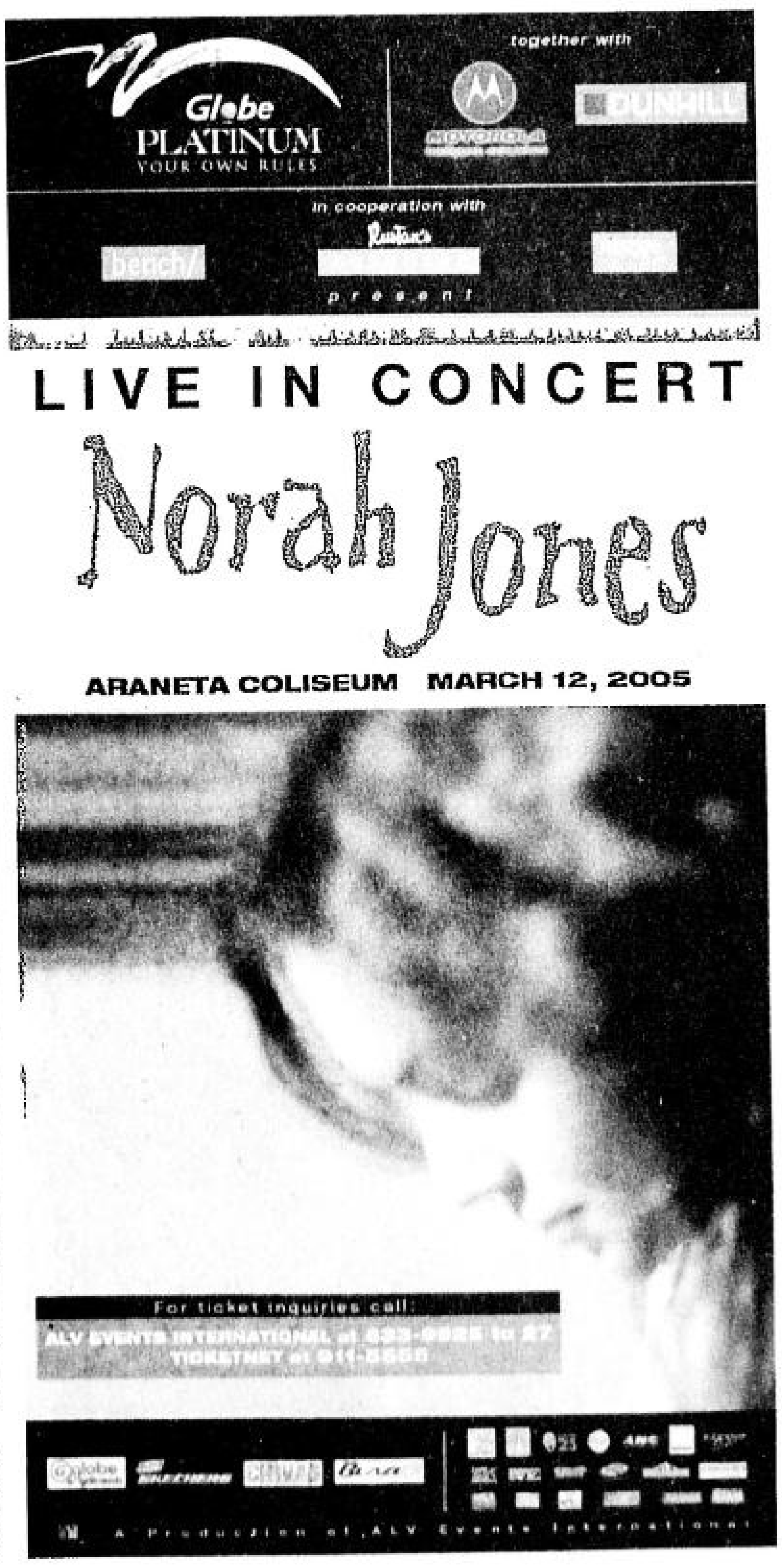
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Who says Gary V is perfect?

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

IT'S HARD to imagine that Gary Valenciano thinks he still has to improve as an artist.

For one, he says, he would like to start and finish things on time. "I wait 'til I get inspired before I actually start anything," he says.

On the bright side, the things that move him need not always be earth-shaking. Sometimes, he says, it is something as simple as a certain look on someone's face.

As a regular host on ABS-CBN's "ASAP," Gary wants to do the job without having to use teleprompters. "I want to communicate to people directly," he explains.

He is something of a control freak, though: "I am the type who, if I can memorize the lines of my partner, I would—just to make sure I would know what to do if anything goes wrong during the show."

Zsa Zsa Padilla says this is what she likes most about Gary. "He rehearses a lot, and memorizes every line." The two are featured in the Valentine show, "Faces of Love," Feb. 14 and 15 at Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard.

Gary was in the US recently with his wife, Angeli, to attend the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) show. While there he met Greg Clancy, a Filipino-American mastering engineer. Now the singer-composer-lyricist-arranger wants to study audio engineering in the States.

Really keen

He is really keen on it, says Angeli. But his hectic schedule may not permit it at this time.

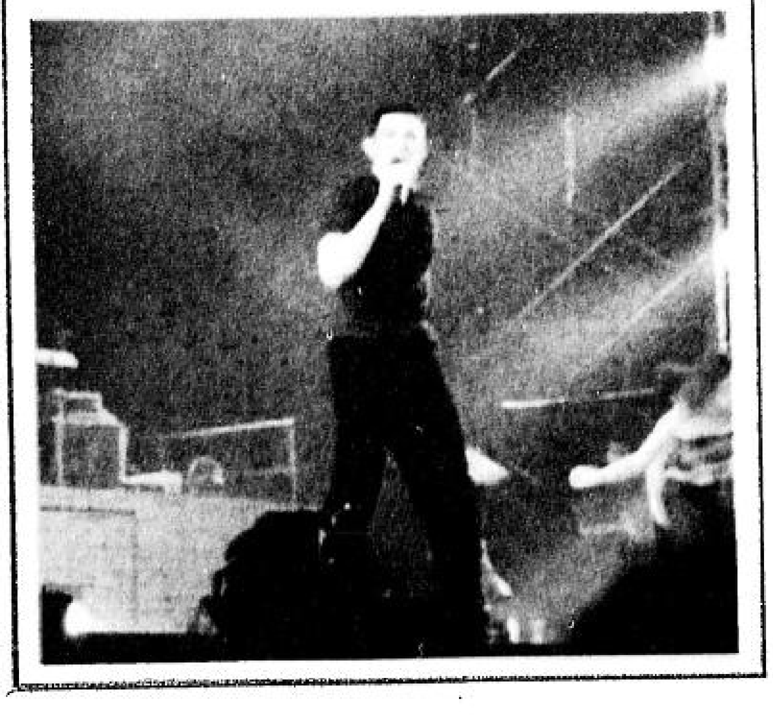
The annual NAMM event, according to Angeli, is a global music products expo where everybody and anybody who has anything to do with the music industry—composers, performers, producers, instrument/equipment suppliers and distributors—come together to view the latest in music technology.

Gary himself is the proud owner of some of these high-tech music-making equipment. He has a digital mixing console, a keyboard/synthesizer and a variety of audio-editing software, with which he built his home recording studio.

Unknown to many, he arranged and produced some of his biggest songs using these equipment. He started doing this in 1987, Angeli says.

The "home-made" hits include "Sana Maulit Muli," "Di Bale Na Lang," "Take Me Out of the Dark," "Could You Be Messiah," "Shout For Joy," "Look in Her Eyes," and "Sa Yahweh Ang Sayaw." Most of the dance music for his concerts, "XXtreme" and "Radical," and majority of the songs in his "Interactive" album, were also done in the home studio.

Gary's next goal: musical scoring for the movies. For this, he knows he will need to have a real, serious studio. Watch Mr. Pure Energy become Mr. Master Engineer.



JOSE MARI CHAN

OGIE ALCASID

RICO J. PUNO

JEROME JOHN HUGHES

JED MADELA

Queens of song, queens of style

POPS Fernandez and Regine Velasquez are "Queens . . . On Fire" in the big Valentine concert tonight and tomorow night at the Ultra in Pasig.

It is the first time they are appearing in a back-to-back show in Manila.

They come fresh from twin triumphs—"It Girl" for Pops and "Reigning Still" for Regine.

"We are two very different performers," Pops points out. "She is a belter, I'm into dance music."

"It is precisely this fact that will make our show interesting," Regine says.

"Queens . . . On Fire" goes to the US this summer.

The show is directed by Rowell Santiago, with musical direction by Homer Flores and Raul Mitra. For tickets, call 854-3300 or 854-3322

Jerome at Metropolis

Jerome John Hughes stars in a free mini-concert showcase at Metropolis, Alabang tomorrow. On Sunday, he will be in SM Bacoor for the mall tour of GMA Films' ongoing "Let the Love Begin."

'Road Rocks'

The "Road Rocks: Winston On Tour 2005" concert series starts tonight at Atchie's Restobar (6th floor, Orient Square Building, Ortigas Center), featuring the Prime Council band. The group also headlines the "Winston in Concert" tomorrow at Mr. Golf in San Fernando, Pampanga.

'Songs Rediscovered'

Jed "The Voice" Madela goes on the "Songs Rediscovered" tour at Podium today, 6 p.m. and SM Manila tomorrow, 4 p.m. Jed will perform songs from his new Universal Records album, "Songs Rediscovered." There will be an autograph signing after the show.

Piano duet

Renowned pianists Nena del Rosario Villanueva and Joviannney Emmanuel Cruz will perform in a concert duet at the University of the Philippines' Abelardo Hall in Diliman, Quezon City, on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the UP College of Social Work and Community Development, the concert aims to establish the UP unit's Esther C. Viloria Endowment Fund for Field Instruction. Viloria is a retired social work professor who served for many years as college secretary.

Villanueva and Cruz, both child prodigies, studied abroad and have performed in many countries. Villanueva received the 1997 Gawad CCP (Cultural Center of the Philippines) para sa Sining Pantanghalan, while Cruz, a member of the UP's Piano Faculty, received the TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) for the arts.

Proceeds of the concert will contribute to the UP Department of Community Development's long-term response to the rehabilitation and development needs of disaster victims in General Nakar town in Quezon.

SHOW TIME

Your guide this week

"The Love Songs of Streisand, Legrand and Groban," with Kuh Ledesma and Christian Bautista; Feb. 11, 12, 13 and 14, 9 p.m. at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental. Call Mandarin Oriental, 750-8888; or Ticketworld.

***

"No More Lonely Nights with Rico J." featuring Rico J. Puno with guests Ella V and Jennifer Lee of Viva Hotbabes; Feb. 11 and 12 at the Music Museum. Call 721-6726.

***

"Revolver: Five Videoke Nights—You Are Professional Singer" with bands, Drip, Imago, Pedicab, Sun Valley Crew and Wolfmann; Feb. 12 at Saguijo Bar, 7612 Guijo St. San Antonio Village, Makati City.

***

Bituin Escalante; Feb. 12, 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt 3 Park. Free admission.

***

"America Live in Manila," Feb. 12, 13 and 14 at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call Ticketworld.

***

"Golden Legends" starring John Ford Coley, Gordon Waller of the Peter and Gordon duo and Latino idol Chris Montez with John Lesaca and RJ Jacinto; Feb. 12 at the CCP Aliw Theater and Feb. 13 and 14 at the Hard Rock Cafe. Call Ticketworld, or Hard Rock Cafe, 893-4661 to 64.

***

"Love at the Bellevue" with Jose Mari Chan and Janet Basco; Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m. at The Bellevue Hotel Grand Ballroom. Call 711-8181.

***

Side A Band; Feb. 13, 5 p.m. at the Glorietta Activity Center. Free admission.

***

"My Heart's Love" featuring Ivy Violan; Feb. 14, 7 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of The Manila Peninsula. Call 776-9359, 823-2974 and 0917-9011333.

***

"Faces of Love," with Gary Valenciano and Zsa Zsa Padilla; Feb. 14 and 15, 8 p.m. at Le Pavilion, Roxas Boulevard. Call Ticketworld, or Ticketnet, 911-5555.

***

"Power of Love" featuring Ogie Alcasid with guests Kyla, Rachelle Ann Go and Myx DJ Iya; Feb. 14 and 15 at the Music Museum. Call 721-6726.

***

"Chips and Ale (A Boyleque Revue)" with the Viva Hot Men and Friends; Feb. 14 at Club Mwah! 3/F Venue Tower, 652 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City. Call 535-7943 or 631-6009.

***

"Love According to Rebekah," Feb. 14 at Republic of Malate. Call 551-7253 to 55.

***

"Love, Soul and Laughter" featuring Aretha and the Soul'd Out Band and Bernie Uy at Merk's Bar and Bistro; Feb. 14. Call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

***

"My Funniest Valentine" with K and the boxers, Dingdong Dantes and Rufa Mae Quinto; Feb. 15, 9 p.m. at Soundstage in Cainta. Call 0917-5349373 or 0917-8177926.

POPS FERNANDEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ

BITUIN ESCALANTE

KUH LEDESMA

RUFA MAE QUINTO

SIDE A BAND

SURPRISE visitors give away "treasures."

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Jack Sparrow sighted at PDI

CAPTAIN Jack Sparrow and Elizabeth Swann — Manila versions — visited the INQUIRER offices on Wednesday to announce that their movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," premiers Feb. 13, 9 p.m., on Star Movies.

No, seriously. The movie, directed by Gore Verbinski, stars Johnny Depp as Sparrow, Orlando Bloom, and Keira Knightley as Swann. It was nominated for five Academy Awards and grossed over $650 million worldwide.

Thus, it was among the "Top Box Office Films" named during the 2004 ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors Composers and Publishers) Film and Television Music Awards.

"Pirates" tells of an eccentric ship captain and a blacksmith who join forces to fight a notorious priate who kidnaps the governor's daughter.

Repeat screenings on Starworld are sched-

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1:45 4:20 6:55 9:30
ALFIE
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
SHALL WE DANCE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:30 9:00
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
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ELEKTRA
12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25
MEET THE FOCKERS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

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1 DOLBY LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:10
2 SDDS DREAMBOY 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:10
3 dts PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 11:35 2:30 5:25 8:30
4 DOLBY ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20
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③ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB: (PG - 13)
12.20, 3.15, 6:10, 9:05 LMF

④ SHALL WE DANCE
MTRCB (GP)
12.25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05 LMP

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Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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DREAMBOY GP 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX GP 12:40,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

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5 Dreamboy

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3 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13
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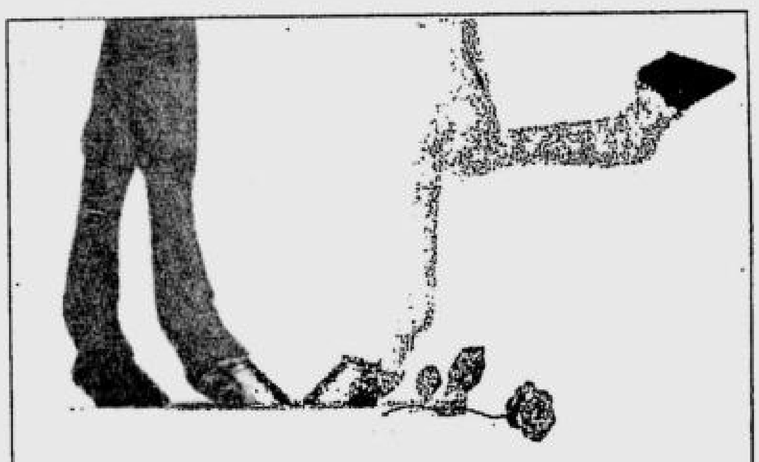

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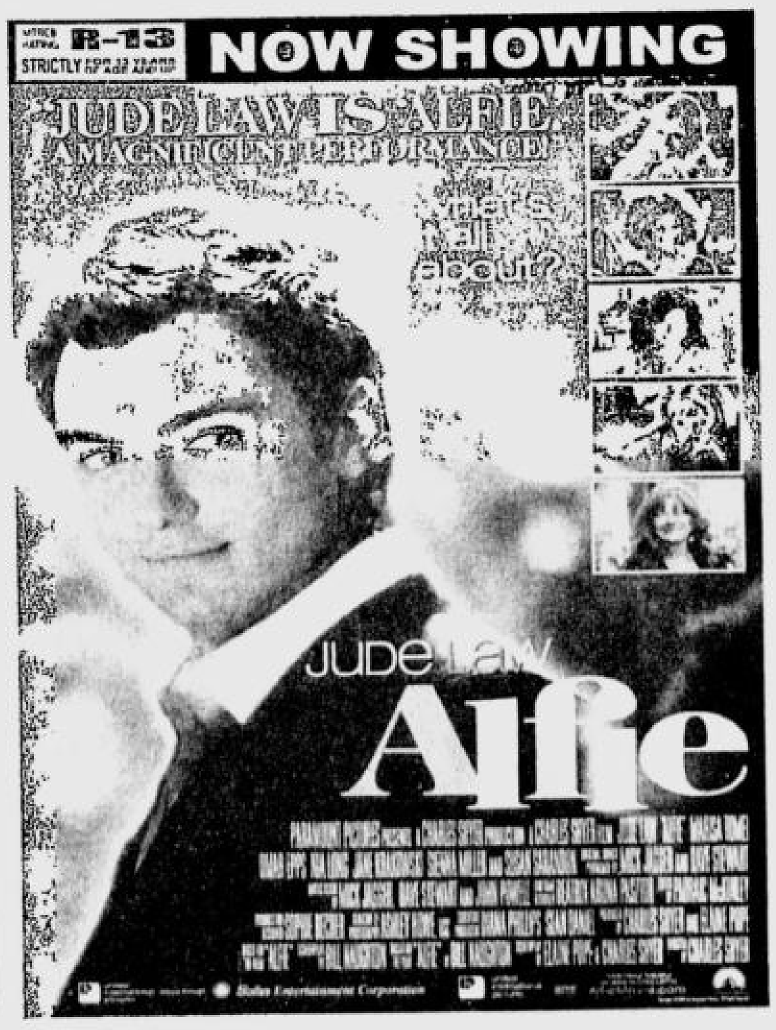

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10 minutes with Dolphy & Zsa Zsa

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

HE IS preparing for a new ABS-CBN sitcom, "Quizon Ave." with his sons. She is busy with a Valentine show with Gary Valenciano.

But the Comedy King and his Divine Diva each gave us five minutes of their time and filled the exchange with candor and, of course, humor

SHE SAYS...

How did you lose weight?

I got sick. Then I went on a high-protein regimen that Dolphy called "Holocaust Diet." Now, I take full meals. As in, rice for breakfast. But at night, I just have yogurt.

There was a time when I actually had to force myself to eat. Because of exhaustion, I would much rather sleep. I also went through a depression two Christmases ago.

That actually helped?

It was tough.

How did you get out of the funk?

Treadmill! I took it out on the machine. Sometimes when you are confronted with a certain problem, an entire can of worms is opened. It can be overwhelming.

How did you family help?

I slept through Christmas and New Year's Day. They waited. When I got up my daughter said: "Mom is awake *na*. Let's go out!" Dolphy was great. He saw how fragile I was, and acted accordingly.

He's very patient. I learned from him. You know he has a problem when he sits in front of the TV, just staring blankly, until 4 a.m., and then gets up at 7 a.m.

What happens then?

I'd confront him and he'd just say he didn't want to bother me.

What keeps the passion burning?

The romance goes after two years (laughs)! Some years are more passionate than others.

You used to play dueling songs when you fought?

Once, he played Madonna's "You Must Love Me." And I played No Doubt's "Don't Speak." I have a piece of advice for young couples who always fight: Instead of staying in a room listening to sappy songs, put on dance music!

HE SAYS...

Sixty years in show biz—what's the secret of your staying power?

Maybe, Someone up there loves me. *Pero dapat laging nakatuntong ang paa mo sa lupa* (One should always be grounded). Humility is the name of the game. *Huwag malunod sa tagumpay* (Don't drown in success).

What are the things you find funny?

Unexpected things. Jokes can be predictable. I've heard all sorts of punchlines. Coming up with a surprise—*pasundot-sundot lang* (intermittently)—that's comedy.

Which comedy movies do you enjoy watching?

Comedy stuff with a message, *maski papa'no* (even a little). The laughter should come with a story.

Which comedians do you admire?

(Charlie) Chaplin has always been my favorite. He did physical comedy—mime—so well. He could make the whole world laugh without saying a single word. He was also a writer, director, an acrobat—he was a genius!

Among those who came later, I like Peter Sellers. His comedy was very simple. Also Jerry Lewis.

Among the local comedians, I looked up to Pugo and Togo. They are my all-time idols. It was a great tandem. *Balanseng-balanse* (perfect balance).

Who will be the next Dolphy?

I don't know... people say this or that guy will be the next Dolphy. I really don't know.

There are a lot of talented young comedians—Bayani Agbayani, Michael V., Smokey Manaloto, Long Mejia, Dennis Padilla. They're all good. It's just a question of who will get the right breaks.

Maybe one from my *partido*... one of my sons (laughs).

Describe yourself as a dad.

I can say that I am a good father, but also not so good. Just fair. I've always left the disciplining to their moms.

With my young daughters (Nicole and Zia), Zsa Zsa is the stricter parent.

Define quality time with the girls.

I make it a point for us to always go out. Eat out. Anywhere. Watch movies.

Describe Zsa Zsa as a partner.

She's really a good partner. *Kumbaga sa* sports, we're a good team.

Because I dote on my kids, she sometimes ends up looking like the *kontrabida*! But we've learned to balance things.

A balancing act, is it?

That's the way things should be. She's young, I try to be patient with her. I'm older, she tries to be patient with me (laughs). Give and take *lang*.

What's your stand on gay marriage?

Puwede na dapat 'yon (It should be allowed by now). It shouldn't be a problem in this day and age.

What do you do away from work?

At home, I just watch TV the whole day. Or I read books. Or I play cards with some friends. I listen to music—Josh Groban, Michael Bublé and (Frank) Sinatra, of course.

They say comedians are serious in real life?

I am. But with friends, I also joke around.

What would you like most to leave to your children?

Not just for them, but for all Filipinos—I'd like to leave happy memories. When they think of me, I hope it brings a smile to their faces... I hope they think happy thoughts.

Bollywood interprets Jane Austen

WASHINGTON—"Bride and Prejudice," a new film by the director of the hit "Bend It Like Beckham," tries to speak to a global audience by refracting an iconic English novel through the prism of the Indian diaspora.

The movie by director Gurinder Chadha takes novelist Jane Austen's 1813 classic "Pride and Prejudice" and sets it in contemporary small-town India.

"What's incredible about this is that even though Jane Austen was writing 200-odd years ago, she was writing at a time when women were not considered whole unless they were married," the Kenyan-born, British-raised Chadha said in an interview before the film's US debut.

"That is still very relevant to many places around the world, and particularly small town India," she said.

The boy-meets-girl, Hollywood-meets-Bollywood comedy jumps from India to London to Los Angeles, following a Punjabi mother's single-minded drive to marry off four beautiful daughters to successful men from the Indian diaspora.

The theme of Austen's 1813 social comedy and love story unwinds against exuberant singing and dancing as the daughters fight off pressure to enter traditional arranged marriages to seek spouses based on love.

Chadha, a former BBC news reporter and documentary maker, stressed that her film strives to hit universal chords: "I think the success of 'Bend It Like Beckham' was precisely that it appealed to so many people around the world."

Driving the film, which opens nationwide on Feb. 25, was "the idea that people are the same and different," she said. "I feel needs to be noted, but also celebrated." *Reuters*

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